



Alice meets the White Rabbit.
(See page 6).

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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HEALING THE WOUNDS WALK RAISES £2,500 FOR CHARITY IN PORTHCAWL



Supporters of the Porthcawl-based Forces charity, Healing the Wounds, were out in force recently. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 27).

Boardwalk hit by arson attack

(SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3)

YOUNG OFFENDER TELLS COURT: 'I WON'T CO-OPERATE WITH COMMUNITY ORDER' PRISON SENTENCE FOR MAESTEG MAN (18) AFTER KNIFE ATTACK

Report by AJ SICLUNA

THE inmate of a hostel in Maesteg who had a row with another resident over an amount of tobacco, armed himself with a knife and attacked him, it was stated at Cardiff Crown Court.

Jay Curnock (18) was sent to a young offender institution for 20 months after admitting the charge of affray.

Recorder David Aubrey QC said: "This was a very serious example of an affray."

He said Curnock had put the knife against his victim's throat, struck out with it, cutting the back of his hand and jabbing it in his ribs.

Prosecutor John Probert said the incident occurred in a hostel in Neath Road, Maesteg, about midnight on March 15.

Curnock had an argument with Nathan Absalom about tobacco. The two had a fight in which punches were thrown.

A woman member of staff intervened and Mr Absalom went into an office.

But Curnock obtained a knife and went after Mr Absalom, grabbing him by the scruff of his neck and then held the knife to his throat.

He felt the knife being pushed towards him.

The police arrived very shortly afterwards and Curnock backed away, but not before he struck Mr Absalom on his hand and jabbed the knife in his ribs.

The victim suffered cuts to his hands and marks to his ribs.

Curnock was arrested, denied having the knife, but accepted he took part in a fight.

His solicitor, Giles Hayes, said: "His mother is extremely disturbed at finding

her son in such a serious position. Clearly, the case crosses the custody threshold."

He said that Curnock wanted the court to know that he would not co-operate if a community-based order was imposed.

He said while on remand in prison, he had tried to engage with various agencies. Sadly, he said, the risk of re-offending was "quite high".

Said the Recorder: "You are young, and not prepared to co-operate with community orders. The only sentence I can properly impose, therefore, is immediate custody."

He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

House burgled at Tondur

POLICE are investigating a house burglary on Maesteg Road, Tondur, between 10am and 5pm on Friday, May 24, when access was gained after a glass panel in the rear door was smashed.

A gold Yeoman man's wristwatch was stolen, as well as a cameo pendant, a pair of lilac pearl earrings and matching necklace, and a yellow brooch in the shape of Bambi.

Detective Constable Michael Maund

of Bridgend CID said: "This property is on a busy road, so it is very likely that someone may have seen something suspicious during the day. The smashing glass will also have made some noise."

"We want to hear from anyone who may have seen anything in the area, however small it may seem to them, it may help us in our investigation."

Call Bridgend CI on 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 (quote reference 62130154199).

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Bilingual project helps launch the new library



Glen the clown entertains the children at Garw Valley Life Centre's new library.

THE opening of the new library at Garw Valley Life Centre has been marked by reception children from Blaengarw Primary, Ysgol Cwm Garw and Ffaldau Primary – with a 'Booktime' of stories and rhymes.

Hosted by Bridgend library and information service in partnership with BCBC's foundation phase team and Booktrust Cymru, the children recited rhymes they had learnt, enjoying stories in both Welsh and English.

They displayed artwork they had created of characters in books they had read, with local entertainer, 'Glen the Clown'.

'Booktime' forms part of Pori Drwy Stori, a new three-year bilingual programme being rolled out by Booktrust Cymru to schoolchildren across Wales.

INSPIRING Inspiring a love of books, stories and rhymes in children aged between four and five years old, the programme also includes 'Rhyme Challenge'.

This helps the youngsters to learn and recite rhymes, and 'My Book', where children can get creative and write their own stories.

All reception age children in the county borough have been given a free pack containing 'Booktime', 'Rhyme Challenge' and 'My Book' materials, to encourage parents and carers to read together with their children.

£925,000 work planned on town centre bridge

A MAJOR £925,000 project will unfold over the next 12 months in Bridgend town centre.

The Bridgend County Borough Council says it involves refurbishing and repairing the A473 inner bypass bridge, which carries the four-lane A473 (Langenau Strasse) over both the River Ogmore and Angel Street in Bridgend town centre.

BCBC reports that structural surveys have revealed a number of areas that require urgent maintenance, to ensure that the bridge remains durable and safe for the

future. These include repairs to cracks in the concrete, new parapet fencing and the replacement of corroded bearings and the bridge's waterproofing system.

Under the Welsh Government's LGBI highways improvement initiative, £925,000 has been made available to carry out the repairs.

As part of the project, Wales and West Utilities will also replace existing steel gas mains that run through the deck, while Welsh Water will increase the reliability of their network.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for commu-

nities, explained: "This is going to be a complicated project and it will take some time to resolve all of the issues that we need to address, so to minimise inconvenience, the council will be carrying out the work in two distinct phases.

"Phase one will take place between July and October this year, to take advantage of the school holiday period, then will stop until the New Year when phase two commences.

"This will take until September 2014 to complete, but traffic management systems will be in place – and we will make every effort to cause as little inconvenience as possible, as we seek to ensure that drivers can continue to use the bridge safely."

Cor Bro Ogwr sings at Ground Zero

"AN emotional whirlwind" – that was how one of the 60 choristers of Co Bro Ogwr described the choir's recent tour in the USA.

It began in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where the choir joined 'Cor Cymraeg Reheboth' for a joint performance of excerpts from Joseph Parry's 'Emmanuel', followed by a selection of Welsh hymns.

Cor Reheboth started in Delta, Pennsylvania, in 1984, which was where CBO went for a traditional Gymanfa Ganu one Sunday afternoon.

The sun shone as the south Wales contingent joined in song with the American descendants of Welsh immigrants.

In Philadelphia the choir was welcomed by the Philadelphia Welsh

Society, founded in 1729.

Arcadia University was the venue for a second concert, attended by many who had travelled a long way to reconnect with their Welsh ancestry.

Finally, a moving lunchtime concert in St. Paul's Chapel next to Ground Zero.

Visitors stood for the Welsh National Anthem; lumps in our throats, we felt proud to be Welsh, and humbled to be there.

Cor Bro Ogwr and Cor Reheboth, who are coming over from the States for a week's concert tour in Wales, will be singing together again on July 3, at 7.30pm in Tabernacl Chapel, The Hayes, Cardiff.

More information about this concert to follow soon.

Tickets from the ticket secretary tel: 01656 653326 or on the door.
Dominique Spearey

FAMILY FUN AT POLICE STATION

A FAMILY Fun Day is being held at Bridgend Police Station (Brackla Street) on Sunday June 9 between 11am and 4pm.

Organised by the Bridgend Community Safety Partnership and South Wales Police, families will enjoy a day of activities including face painting, an inflatable football pitch, a military assault course, BMX ramps and more.

There will also be the opportunity to meet police dogs and horses, take a close look at the Police's underwater search speed boat and a fire engine from the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Visitors can also take a peak inside the police station's cells!

GEM READERS' LETTERS

Who will save the Rest for posterity?

I WOULD like to endorse points made by Ian Audsley in his recent 'Save the Rest' appeal, including his buy-a-brick suggestion.

This idea worked for the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff and Porthcawl residents have bought a £500 brick for the £300,000 Welsh Miners' memorial due to open in October at the former Universal colliery site in Senghennydd.

The Porthcawl Rest is probably Bridgend borough's largest community hub with around a dozen local groups using it daily.

Its 135-year-old function as a charity is still to provide respite and convalescence for the frail, elderly, vulnerable and disabled, for which there is a great need in Wales and the country as a whole with Health Service changes.

However, the last four years of accounts apparently show the trustees recording an average annual loss of around £43,000, with apparently no attempt being made to obtain Heritage grants or funding for this grade two listed building.

The Heritage Lottery has given more than £30 million in grants for such buildings over the past 15 years and BCBC have just been successful in obtaining £525,000 to refurbish the grade two listed Jennings Building in Porthcawl and more than £1 million in total for the Harbour area.

We are told the plan is to close down the Rest at the end of October and

to sell or auction it off for around £1 million, which is nearly half the asking price for a nearby house.

Can the Welsh Government help the Rest? Porthcawl SHOUT Forum wrote to Carwyn Jones AM two weeks ago asking for his help and if possible for our Government to buy it for the nation? We are meeting him on June 7, and hope he supports the plan.

Can Cadw help the Rest? We have asked them and they appeared sympathetic. They have given the building a grade two listing, but point out the responsibility then passes to the local authority.

Can BCBC help the Rest? SHOUT also wrote to Deputy Leader Coun Sage asking for his help and would the Borough Council consider buying it, or help to buy it for the community, and we are awaiting his reply.

Historically, the Rest is unique in Wales, both as a building and as part of our social heritage. The inspirational work of James Lewis, a Maesteg doctor and his wife, Charlotte, in 1862 to treat his sick and injured ironworkers, colliers and quarrymen and their families, should not be lost.

Treating the casualties of two world wars and the thousands of south Wales coalfield casualties over decades has earned the Rest the right to be valued by the community and its politicians.

It is for sale, and now is the time to take it into

public ownership and guarantee its preservation for future generations.

I urge all senior politicians in this area to talk to the Rest chairman, Coun Gough from Llanbradach, and construct a plan to save the Rest and its magnificent work. I am sure the former coalmining communities across south Wales

would help fundraise a plan to buy, and small villages like Senghennydd and their politicians have shown what can be done with vision and determination. Members of Porthcawl SHOUT would help with any plan to save it – and buy the first brick!

Gary Victor, Porthcawl SHOUT Forum.

Charity needs more volunteers

AS this week (June 1 – 7) is

Volunteers' Week, I am writing to say a huge thank you to all our dedicated volunteers for their fantastic contribution.

I would also like to ask anyone thinking about volunteering to consider supporting Leonard Cheshire Disability. From care homes to campaigning, we support disabled peo-

ple to live the life they choose. But we can't do it without volunteers who are at the heart of everything we do.

Whatever your background or skills, we have a volunteering opportunity for you. Visit

www.LCDisability.org, call 0808 808 2236 or email volunteering@LCDisability.org to find out more.
Begoña Mendez, Volunteer enabling coordinator Leonard Cheshire Disability

Latest news from the Bridgend WI

THE Bridgend WI held its AGM in May and I'm pleased to say Pauline Long was voted in as president again this year.

Her vice-president is Heather Sparkes; Kay Osmond remain treasurer and Theresa Bufton secretary; together with Gaynor Coombs, Elsie Stephens and Elaine Marshall (committee members). Judith Lucas was our WI adviser officiating at the meeting.

Members attended and voted on the resolution to help resolve the decline of our high streets; birthday wishes were sent to Gaynor Coombs for May 30 and

members were reminded that we had a craft evening booked for the first Tuesday of the month (June 4).

Our next monthly meeting will be on June 18 at 7.30pm and will be a cookery demonstration by Kath Mephram. Visitors welcome.

This year, we are hosting the Penta Pen-Y-Bont link. The first link event will be a trip to Westonbirt Arboretum on Saturday, October 12.

We are looking forward to seeing members of the other WIs in the group get-together.

TVB

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL JUNE 13)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
06 Thur	05.32	8.6	18.03	8.8
07 Fri	06.23	8.8	18.46	9.0
08 Sat	07.03	9.1	19.22	9.3
09 Sun	07.41	9.1	19.59	9.2
10 Mon	08.18	9.1	20.31	9.2
11 Tues	08.51	8.9	21.04	9.1
12 Wed	09.26	8.8	21.39	9.0
13 Thur	09.58	8.8	22.09	8.9

While THE GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

'TOUCHED BY CANCER' CHARITY HANDS DONATIONS TO LOCAL GOOD CAUSES



Report and photograph by KEITH E MORGAN

ABOVE: Coun Megan Butcher with sponsors and recipients of donations from the charity.

A LOCAL charity has celebrated its third birthday by giving donations to a number of groups involved in fighting cancer.

The first 'Touched by Cancer' walk took place at Halloween in 2010, organised by Coun Megan Butcher, who wanted to do something to help various local organisations that worked in the field.

Touched by Cancer is now a registered charity, and its aims are not only to help those who have suffered with cancer, but also the families, relatives, friends and carers who have been affected and touched by this terrible disease.

The third walk was held on Kenfig Nature Reserve in October 2012.

Presenting the cheques to the chosen charities, Coun Megan Butcher said that since the first walk, the event had raised £25,000.

She gave her thanks to all those who continued to support the charity, including sponsors David Brace, of Dunraven Windows and Gareth Maund, of the Prince of Wales, Kenfig. She thanked Bridgend County

Borough Council for making the centre at the nature reserve available for the event, and the management and staff who have given their services free.

She thanked Douglas 'Lopper' Wilson together with Adrian Morgan (secretary) for again doing all the organisation, and everyone who had volunteered to take part in the walk, with special praise for the youngsters.

She was also pleased to acknowledge the presence of Nathan Stephens, the international Paralympic athlete, who had turned out especially at the Kenfig Nature Reserve to Start the Walk. Nathan is a great supporter of 'Touched by Cancer' and has turned out every year for the walk.

The following charities and their representatives received cheques from the walk:

Sister Gwyneth Poacher - £3,000 for the Sandville Self Help Centre at Tŷn Kenfig; Kylie McKee - £2,000 for Velindre Hospital.

Erith (secretary) and Iorwerth (vice-chairman) Morgan - £1,250 for Macmillan; Sandra and Emyr Owen - £3,000 to Porthcawl and District Branch of Latch

Outrage at arson attack on Porthcawl boardwalk

ARSONISTS have destroyed almost 50 metres of a boardwalk tourist attraction at Rest Bay, in a calculated and "cowardly" attack in the early hours of the morning.

Part of the boardwalk between Rest Bay and Pink Bay in Porthcawl, which was installed to make it easier for wheelchair users, parents with pushchairs and people with limited mobility to visit the coast was destroyed in an early-morning arson attack.

Night staff at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club raised the alarm, after discovering that almost 50 metres of the boardwalk had been set on fire at around 4am on Monday, June 3.

The South Wales Fire and Rescue Service attended the scene and have confirmed that the fire was started deliberately.

South Wales Police are currently investigating the extensive criminal damage and have appealed for witnesses.

As a result of the fire, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has been forced to close off around 100 metres of the boardwalk in the interests of safety.

The cost of the damage is still being calculated, but a replacement section could be as much as £90,000.

The Leader of BCBC, Coun Mel Nott said: "I'm both furious and disappointed that someone would sneak down there in the middle of the night and carry out such a cowardly attack."

"They've sent taxpayers' money up in smoke, have stopped vulnerable people and families with pushchairs from enjoying some of the harder-to-reach parts of our coastline, and have left a huge blemish on a prominent part of the landscape - just two weeks before Porthcawl hosts the 2013 Wales Senior Open golf tournament."

"It's particularly disappointing because we have worked long and hard on projects such as this to benefit the town."

"The boardwalk cost around £300,000 in total and was manufactured in durable recycled plastic to offer a more attractive route, capable of standing up to rugged maritime weather conditions."

"It is also designed to be fire retardant to a certain degree, so someone has obviously made a concerted effort to cause as much damage as possible."

"The council remains committed towards the regeneration of Porthcawl and I hope that the culprit or culprits are apprehended soon, and made accountable for their actions."

"Rest Bay holds a Blue Flag and has a well-earned reputation of being one of the most beautiful coastal spots in Wales, so it would be a

huge shame if that reputation was marred by such an irresponsible and criminal act."

The Wales Coast Path project manager, Sue Rice, added: "The path is becoming an important place of recreation for local people and brings many visitors to the area, boosting the local economy."

"Whoever has done this, has complete disregard for the wider value and enjoyment the path provides."

"Having just celebrated the success of the first anniversary of the path, and all the hard work that went in to getting it ready on time, it's very disappointing to see such mindless vandalism."

The first section of the Rest Bay boardwalk was opened in 2010. Extended in phases to cover a full kilometre of coastline, it incorporates a viewing platform and gates, that can be operated by wheelchair users and people with limited mobility.

Part of the Welsh Assembly Government's Coastal Access Improvement Programme, the boardwalk was installed in partnership between BCBC, Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh European Funding Office.

Anyone with information concerning this incident, should contact Porthcawl police station on 101, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555111 (quote reference 62130164600).



BCBC coastal access officer Alison Roberts, Couns Lyn Morgan, Mel Nott and Huw David inspect the damage to the boardwalk.

Lifeboat called to yacht off Sker Point

RECENTLY, Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat, *Rose of the Shires*, was launched to assist a yacht one mile south off Sker Point, which was taking on water, and struggling to make way.

Volunteer RNLI Helmsman Steven Knipe, assisted by crew members Alex Denny, Daniel Jones and Jordan Feely, made their way quickly to the yacht, and found it leaning over at a very steep angle, which made coming alongside, and putting a crew member on board very difficult.

Crew member Alex Denny, an off-duty police community support officer, who volunteered to go aboard the yacht said: "thanks to Steve's boat handling skills, he came right alongside the yacht in very rough seas, close

enough for me to climb on board."

"Once I was on board the yacht, I made sure that the crew was safe, and started to get the boat ready for a tow. Steve again came in close to the yacht, and threw me a tow line. As I was hanging off the front of the yacht, I was being pounded by waves, which made it difficult to get the tow line attached."

"Once it was made fast and secure, the lifeboat towed the yacht to safer deep water to await the arrival of the Mumbles RNLI Off Shore Lifeboat that took the yacht to Swansea."

Steve Jones, deputy launching authority from Porthcawl RNLI said: "Although they are volunteers, they train hard twice a week, every week, for this sort of call, it was a skillful rescue performed in difficult conditions by a highly experienced crew."

Man admits to handling £36K of cannabis in six months

WHEN police officers arrested a young man in Bridgend, he made a "startling admission," Cardiff Crown Court has heard - writes AJ SICLUNA.

Craig Shottle (22) admitted he had been trying drugs for the last six months, at an estimated value of £36,000.

Shottle, of Coity Road, Bridgend, was jailed for 16 months after pleading to being concerned in the supply of cannabis between July 12 last year and January 13, and possessing cannabis.

He had been convicted by Vale magistrates and committed for sentence.

Prosecutor Hywel Hughes said police went to a flat in Bridgend occupied by Shottle and found a small quantity of herbal cannabis.

They also found a number of plastic self-sealing bags and a mobile phone with a large number of drug-related text messages. "Shottle was arrested

and made a startling admission," said Mr Hughes.

He said: "I have been dealing in cannabis since July 20."

He estimated to the police that his dealings over the six-month period involved 3.5 kilos of drugs, with an estimated value of £36,000.

His counsel, Hash Salman, said: "He deserves substantial credit for his full and frank admissions, and most of the prosecution case is based on those admissions."

He said he was still a young man, was remorseful and was motivated to fund his own cannabis habit. The offences, he said, were unsophisticated.

Mr Salman said his client suffered from depression and epilepsy, and the prospect of prison terrified him.

Recorder Geraint Walters pointed out that Shottle had played a significant role in the case and he said the only way to deal with it was by an immediate prison sentence.

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CALL TO ACTION TO SUPPORT PRINCESS OF WALES HOSPITAL

EVERY man, woman, and child in the borough of Bridgend still needs to understand how important it is that we respond, both individually and collectively, to this last eight-week round of consultation regarding the future of our hospital service.

Nothing is more important, or has ever been so important to our communities, than the future of the Princess of Wales Hospital at Bridgend which is still at risk.

Readers can be excused if they think, from what they have read, that our hospital is safe. Nothing could be further from the truth.

True, our hospital is the preferred option, but it will be the response to this last eight weeks of consultation that will still finally determine what actually happens.

Regrettably, the decision appears to rest between Royal Glamorgan, Llantrisant and Princess of Wales, Bridgend, because only one will be the enhanced regional centre that we all desire and this is certainly not the time for complacency.

The south Wales programme blue booklet 'Consultation Summary' will be widely available from this week onwards, when supplies will be found in the Porthcawl Library, Porthcawl Information Centre, and Trinity Church,

John Street, and other places throughout Porthcawl.

The booklet consultation is based on four options and option 3, that directly includes Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, as one of the five hospitals chosen, is our clear choice.

It is important that as many people as possible return the short questionnaire also included in the booklet as this will make a difference.

There is also provision for submitting a response 'on behalf of organisations' and we urge all organisations please to do so. This is our last chance to influence the end result.

Porthcawl SHOUT, as always, with the best interests

of the town at heart, have arranged a final rally at their meeting on July 5 (2pm at Trinity Church) when members of the Area Health Board have promised to be in attendance.

Because July 19 is the closing date for the consultation, it will probably be our last chance as a town to make our feelings known in support of our hospital.

We also understand that Health Board officials have agreed to be available at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on Wednesday, June 12, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm for consultation when all are also welcome.

CLIVE MORT,
Porthcawl SHOUT



PHOTO by RICHARD SIMS

Talbot Centre welcomes new Bridgend Mayor

ABOVE: The Talbot Community Centre was delighted to welcome the new Bridgend county borough Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors Clive and Pauline James, to lunch recently. It was their first official visit to Kenfig Hill.

'We should not be complacent over hospital's future' - warns a regional AM

REGIONAL Tory AM Suzy Davies has warned people not to be complacent about the future of the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Although the south Wales programme now appears to favour a scenario in which five hospitals, including PoW, are designated as regional centres, this was by no means a done deal, she said.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, went on: "Understandably, a campaign is already building up in Pontypridd and Rhondda to save services at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in Llantrisant.

"This is likely to be at the expense of the

Princess of Wales in Bridgend.

"How dare the Labour Government choose to make record-breaking cuts of £800m in the Welsh NHS budget, which allows a situation to develop where one community has to compete with another for its emergency services.

"I understand that the decision by the south Wales programme about which of the options was to go forward for public consultation, was close.

"To me, that shows that services are needed in both hospitals. But it also means that this unwelcome fight is not yet over.

"Those who took part in the engagement process must now send their views into the public consultation under

way until July 19. Everyone who relies on this hospital, from Neath to the Vale, must help get across the message about how crucial the hospital is in the delivery of health services in the region.

"If PoW is downgraded, patients will face emergency dashes to other hospitals without knowing if an ambulance will arrive in time, or if there's a bed available when they get there.

"Those who will be making the decision about hospital configuration later in the year must be left in no doubt about how important this hospital is."

Mrs Davies went: "People in Bridgend who use the Princess of Wales need to make sure that their views are submitted during the current consultation period.

"It is very important that we get across how crucial the hospital is in the delivery of health services in the region. If PoW is downgraded, we will face a nightmare scenario where patients would have to travel to Morriston, Cardiff or Llantrisant for things like A&E, obstetric-led maternity services and children's services.

"It's shame that we cannot keep all the expertise we have in all our hospitals, but the process demands winners and losers, so we must ensure that PoW is a winner for the sake of every-one living here.

"Those who will make this decision must be left in no doubt about how important this hospital is," she concluded.

SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...

Princess of Wales
THERE have been articles in The GEM and other media on the departments under threat, accident and emergency, paediatrics, and consultant-led maternity and special care baby unit, at the PoW hospital.

I would point out that these closures have not yet been prevented. Everyone should voice their concerns and register objections to the closure.

Here is a list of public meetings in which individuals can register their objections:

June 10, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, CF35 5AW.
June 12, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, CF36 3YW. **June 20, 6.30pm-8.30pm**, Maesteg Town Hall, Talbot St, Maesteg, CF34, 9DA. **June 25, 2pm-4pm**, Brewery Field, Tondur Road, Bridgend, CF31 4JE.

Alternatively, go online at www.opinion-research.co.uk/swp.

Art society
TONDU and District Art Society meet every Tuesday from 7pm-9pm at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

For information regarding membership, contact secretary Jean on 01656 720086.

The society has been invited by the local community council to help judge the annual Christmas competition, when work from local schools is entered.

The next exhibition will take place in the Len Evans Centre from June 15-18 between 10am and 6pm (except Sunday, 11am to 4pm).

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



There are three classes of competition - 'local scenes', 'a walk on the wild side' and 'still life with flowers'.

There will be over 200 paintings on show by 50 local artists.

Gleemen sing
MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir will perform in the Maesteg festivities' closing night at the town hall on Saturday, June 15, from 7.30pm to 8pm. Tickets can be obtained from the town hall.

Quiz night
INSTEAD of summer fetes in Llansantffraid, Betws, and Aberkenfig Parish, it has been decided to hold a quiz night at Tondur Cricket Club on June 21 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

Singalong
EVERYONE is welcome to come along and enjoy the singing in the Smyrna Chapel, Penyfa, Cymannan Ganu on Friday, June 7 at 6.30pm.

The conductor is Rob Nicholls from Cardiff, soloist Bethan Thomas from Maesteg, and the organist Peter David from Coity.

Carers' events
BRIDGEND Carers' Centre at 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (telephone 01656 658479) is a welcoming venue for all.

On June 10, there is a special showcase information event from 10am to 2pm, which

will explain everything the centre has to offer. All are welcome.

On June 11 from 9.30am to 12.30pm, there will be a carers' information stall in Boots the Chemist and Sainsbury's Bridgend.

On June 12 from 9.30am to 3pm, there will be a special fun and relaxation event at the centre. There will be exercise sessions, beauty therapies, drumming, arts and crafts and gardening facilities.

On June 13, there will be a number of stalls in Bridgend town centre to mark carers' week.

June 14 sees a guided tour of the Senedd. The tour lasts approximately one hour. Telephone Paula on the number above for details.

On June 15 there is a fundraising walk in Porthcawl; registration is at 9.30am and leaves

from the Hi Tide.

Charity CD
HEALING the Wounds will benefit when Bridgend-based male choir Bois

Goetre-Hen A'r Cylch donates 50 per cent of all proceeds from the sale of its new CD, *Make them hear you, to the charity.*

The emotive single 'Tell my Father' is dedicated to serving personnel and veterans, together with members of the police, ambulance and fire services who have suffered post-traumatic stress disorder.

Copies of the CD can be obtained from Anne Phillips of Healing the Wounds on 01656 786380, or e-mail amie@healingthewounds.co.uk.

Foodbank plea
THE Foodbank charity is arranging collec-

tion of food at the following venues:

June 15, Waitrose Cowbridge; July 6, Tesco Maesteg; July 5-6, Tesco Extra, Bridgend; September 14, Waitrose Cowbridge; November 9, Waitrose Cowbridge; December 1, Tesco Maesteg; November 30-December 1, Tesco Extra, Bridgend.

During the period April 2012 to March 2013, it fed a total of 3,819 people (2,618 adults and 1,201 children), increase of 33.62 per cent from the period 2011 to 2012.

The top three reasons for referral to the charity were benefit delays (34.22 per cent), benefit changes (16.89 per cent), and low income (19.25 per cent).

The charity expects a further increase over the next year because of benefit changes.

The new distribution centre which has recently opened in Caerau is located in Noddfa chapel community centre and opens on Tuesdays from 10am to 12pm.

The charity is short of the following commodities: sugar, cereals, vegetables, sponge puddings, fish, meat, orange juice, coffee and pasta sauce.



Local artist's donation to Help for Heroes

A member of Porthcawl Art Society, Robert Taylor, has donated a painting to Help for Heroes and presented it (above) to Rhys Edwards, manager of the new store in St David's Centre, Cardiff. Porthcawl Art Society is open daily at John Street Porthcawl.

Cricket team keep up their fine run of form

BRIDGEND TOWN under-12s continued their rich vein of form, at home to Port Talbot Town on a warm summer evening at Newbridge Fields.

Port Talbot Town won the toss and elected to bat, but the Bridgend bowlers were quickly into a good rhythm, wickets taken by C. Hart (3) and A. Dalton (2) who were the pick of the Bridgend attack, ably supported by E. Biebrach (2) and M. Padmanabhan.

The lively H. Evans was once

again in the action with two run outs and a stumping. This helped to limit Port Talbot to 251 for 8 wickets (pairs format) off their 20 overs.

In a good spirited match with two very young teams, Bridgend reached 276 for 5 wickets with major contributions from E. Biebrach (26) and C. Hart (11), culminating in a Bridgend Town win by 25 runs.

Team: E. Biebrach, J. Biebrach, L. Coghill, A. Dalton, A. Glover, H. Evans (w/k), C. Hart, J. Hayes, M. Padmanabhan.

New custody suite starts to take shape



Pictured, above, left to right: Robert Woolcock, of Willmott Dixon in Wales, Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael, and Chief Superintendent Liane James, Divisional Commander for Central Policing Division, which covers Bridgend, mark the cornerstone event at the development site on Bridgend Industrial Estate.

THE new police custody facility, which will "serve policing in the region for generations," is taking shape in Bridgend.

The steel frame is now in place for the structure which will include a custody suite comprising of 42 cells, and a modern office complex on Queens Road North at Bridgend Industrial Estate, a police spokesperson reported.

This new development will complement the similar modern facilities in Cardiff Bay, and is set to improve the police service provided across south Wales. The custody suite will replace the outdated cells in Bridgend Police Station, and will be used for detainees from across Bridgend and the immediate surrounding areas.

Assistant Chief Constable Julian Kirby said: "This development is vital for policing across the region. We are building an infrastruc-

ture which will enable us to meet today's policing demands, but also those of the future.

"The facility will house investigation teams in a fit-for-purpose environment which will make how we investigate and deal with detainees on a daily basis much more efficient and enhance the Criminal Justice process."

Chief Superintendent Liane James, Divisional Commander for Bridgend, said: "Our presence right in the heart of Bridgend town centre is, and always will be, valued by us and is important to the area. We will retain our town centre presence."

Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, Alun Michael, said: "I am satisfied that this investment, handed on by the previous Police Authority, will greatly increase the efficiency of the police service in south Wales and that the public will benefit from the new development.

"The centralisation of some key functions, together with the installation of appropriate equipment, is expected to speed up the criminal justice process and improve the service for victims.

"I particularly welcome the scheduled installation of video link-up technology for vulnerable victims and witnesses to use when giving evidence during court cases."

Chief Superintendent Liane James, added: "Crime across Bridgend county borough hasn't been this low for a generation - we are doing well. This new development will help us build on this success, to ensure the streets across the region continue to be safe, and that more and more criminals are put before the courts."

It is hoped the facility will be handed over to South Wales Police and be fully operational in May 2014. Construction firm Willmott Dixon in Wales is responsible for the build.

First Minister does a spot of pond dipping in nature reserve



ABOVE: The First Minister, Dr Rhys Jones, Valleys Regional Park, and Wildlife Watch members pond dipping. (Rose Revera)

Pictures courtesy of Wildlife Trust



ABOVE: The new Visitor Centre and pond. (David Llewellyn)

FIRST Minister Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend, officially opened a visitor centre at former colliery site, Parc Slip Nature Reserve.

A previously under-used building at the reserve has been transformed into a visitor centre and coffee shop with conference facilities.

Mr Jones, who took part in some first-hand wildlife watching while pond dipping with local children, said: "This project provides an excellent example of how the Welsh Government is using EU funding to stimulate tourism opportunities in the Valleys, based on our natural resources.

"As well as providing a first class facility for

education and local people, four new jobs have already been created at the centre as a result of the project, and it is expected to support the creation of several more in the local area through increased visitor numbers in the future."

The public opening of the visitor centre took place on Bank Holiday Monday, attended by TV presenter Dr Rhys Jones (BBC's Rhys Jones' Wildlife Patrol) who led the public with Wildlife Trust staff on a 'reptile ramble' around the reserve.

Activities included pond dipping, willow weaving with Out to Learn Willow and rural woodcraft demonstrations from the Gower Charcoal Makers.



Dr Rhys Jones and Rudi Bright smelling grass snake pool! (Mike Bright)

Who wants to build what and where?

Mrs L Thompson - 8 Alyson Way, Pencoed, Bridgend - fell one tree.
Mr V Hughes - 33 Onslow Terrace, Brynmynyn, Bridgend - retrospective change of use of main house to house in multiple occupation and use rear annex as residential unit.
South Wales Police - Tryst building and Warehouse, Queens Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend - vary conditions 1 and 2 of P/12/908/RLX to achieve a rating of 'very good' rather than 'excellent'.
Mr Nigel Wells - Land north of Haul Bryn Nantymoel, Bridgend - four houses (resubmission P/11/944/OUT).
Trelales Ltd - The Oystercatcher, 47 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend - demolition of eastern annexe of The Oystercatcher public house.
Mrs L Shillibier - 15 Nicholls Avenue, Porthcawl, Bridgend - single storey rear extension to replace existing lean-to.
Lewis & Perry Developments Ltd - Land off Bryn Road, Ogmere Vale, Bridgend - vary condition 7 of planning permission P/12/753/FUL to reduce site excavation work.
Mr and Mrs Trahar - 1 Greenacres, South Cornelly - first floor extension to gable end to accommodate new bedroom with en-suite.
Mr Nick Clift - 8 Heol Bryncwytyn, Pencoed, Bridgend - two storey extension to side.
Mr C Williams - 13 Fairfield Avenue, Maesteg, Bridgend - detached garage to rear.
Mrs S Roux - 18 Oaklands Road, Bridgend - single storey extension to side and rear of property.
Mr James Godbeer - Fairways Hotel, West Drive, Porthcawl - orangery and roof terrace extension to south (front) elevation and internal alterations.
Bellway Homes Ltd - Land to east of Pwll y Waun Pond, Porthcawl, Bridgend - erect 65 dwellings, amenity open space, access to land for future B1 class (office) use and associated access and estate roads.
Mr Christopher O'Connor - 39 Salisbury Road, Maesteg - two storey rear extension and detached garage.

Mr A John - 41 Garnwen Terrace, Maesteg, Bridgend - dormer extension to rear elevation and additional dormer to front elevation.
Mr R Tyan - 11 Ewenny Road, Bridgend - change of use on ground floor from A3 to dog grooming parlour (sui generis).
Mrs HJ Barnes - 31 Bridgend Road, Porthcawl, Bridgend - proposed porch extension.
Mr Hanney - 12 Heronston Park Homes, Heronston Lane, Bridgend - conservatory to rear.
Anthony John - 3 Fairfax Crescent, Porthcawl, Bridgend - loft conversion with side and rear dormer extensions.
Mrs A Evans - 15 Parcau Avenue, Bridgend - proposed garage.
Mr R Howells - 2 Sea View, Heol Spencer, Coity, Bridgend - single storey extensions and loft conversion.
J Leon & Co Ltd - Unit A, Picton Court, Bridgend Retail Park - relax condition 1 of P/95/408/FUL to allow the variation of types of goods sold.
Mrs Hasmi - 69 Priory Oak, Brackla - first floor front/side extension and canopy over front door.
Ford Motor Company - Ford Motor Co Ltd, Waterton Industrial Estate, Bridgend - extension to existing lorry trailer park.
Mr Michael Kehoe - 17 Aneurin Bevan's Way, Maesteg, Bridgend - Single storey bedroom/shower room extension for disabled person.
Mr Alan Morgan - 10 Heol Las, North Cornelly, Bridgend - flat roof rear loft extension.
Mr Anthony Reid - 10 De Londres Close, Porthcawl - double storey rear extension.
Baptist Union Corporation Ltd - Carey Baptist Church, Bridgend Road, Aberkenfig, Bridgend - demolish existing church and construct three detached dwellings.
Mr L Thomas - NE side of Abergarw Farm, New Road, Brynmynyn, Bridgend - construct a 2.5 storey four bedroom detached dwelling with integral garage.

LOCAL CHARITY GETS HELP HELP FROM PENCOED BUFFS



LEFT TO RIGHT: Anne Davies, Victor Pugh, Norma Morgan, Roy Penny, Kerry Phelps and Jeff Davies.

FUNDRAISERS in Pencoed raised almost £900 for the Bridgend branch of the Alzheimer's Society.

Members of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB) were involved in the fundraising and last month, a cheque for £885.75 was presented to the society.

Royston Penny of the Buffs said: "We would like to thank the people of Pencoed, support workers Andrew Kingscott and Sue Roderick, the RAOB Club in Pencoed, and all the lodges of the Maesteg and District province."

Alice's Wonderland comes to life as Youth Theatre juniors put on a spectacular show



Alice, played by Ffion Lawrence-Jones, with the Queen of Hearts' men.



Photographs by MALCOLM NUGENT

THE Bridgend Youth Theatre juniors put on a spectacular version of the Disney musical, *Alice in Wonderland* last week, in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

Packed with special effects and with an enthusiastic cast putting their all into the songs, it made for a great evening out – and was a chance to talent spot some stars of the future!

It wasn't quite a cast of thousands, but it certainly went well past the century mark, and the strength in depth was such that there were two casts – with the main characters played by different youngsters on the Wednesday and Thursday.

The GEM caught the show on Wednesday, so apologies to the Thursday gang, but we do hope to have photos of the show in next week's GEM!



George Neeson played the caterpillar.



ABOVE: Phoebe Spence-Evans was the Queen of Hearts.



Ella Coates was 'little Alice'.



Ewan Bevington played the Mad Hatter.



Aisling McCormack-Thomas was an anxious white rabbit.

KATHLEEN'S SPECIAL AWARD FOR 44 YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM

by PHILIP IRWIN



ABOVE: Kathleen Dungey and husband Thomas at the award ceremony.

Ex-Tory crosses over to UKIP

FORMER Porthcawl Town Council
Conservative leader, Chris Smart, has been elected as the first chairman of the newly-formed Bridgend and district branch of UKIP.

It was formed at a meeting in Bridgend last week when officers were chosen.

Caroline Jones, who owns cafes in Bridgend and Porthcawl, was named deputy chairman, ex-Porthcawl Tory

councillor Jill Sweet, secretary, and Harley Muckell, treasurer.

Mr Smart, president of Porthcawl Chamber of Trade and Commerce said: "I have become disillusioned with David Cameron's leadership."

"Recently, he has not listened to the Conservative grassroots and is obsessed by such issues as gay marriage, which is ripping apart the party."

He had decided that "enough was enough as did other members".

A TEACHER from Aberthyn has won the Ted Wragg Award for 'Lifetime Achievement in Education in Wales'.

Kathleen Dungey received her award at the Pearson Teaching Awards ceremony, and was nominated by her headteacher for her "exceptional" service – having taught at the same school since 1968.

Kathleen told The GEM that she had started her career in the science department, specialising in biology and chemistry at Mostyn Roman Catholic High School in Cardiff.

However, after a reorganisation of Catholic schools in Cardiff in 1988, it became known as Mary Immaculate High School.

Later, Kathleen changed her focus, teaching religious education with special responsibility for personal and social education.

She was nominated by her headteacher, Marc Belli, who said: "Kath has worked at the school for 44 years in a number of capacities, ranging from classroom teacher of science to pastoral teacher, and more recently as the school counsellor."

"Kath has been an exceptional member of staff, always willing to 'go the extra mile' and makes it her business to support children, and the families, and ensure every child receives the best possible education."

"Her compassion and dedication to support students is nothing short of amazing. At the end of the academic year, Kath will be retiring and the school will lose an amazing talent, who has served the school so well."

"She is well known to generations of families who have attended the school and I am sure they will be able to recall a situation where Kath helped improve the quality of their

lives in some way. Kath will now go through for a 'big bash' in London to announce the UK winner, at an event which will be televised on BBC2 in October."

Kathleen said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my teaching career at Mostyn and Mary Immaculate High School over the past 44 years, especially the last 14 years, working with pupils with challenging issues and doing my best for them."

"I am now 65, and it is time for me to hang up my 'educational boots'. It saddens me to do so, but nobody can go on forever."

"I have had an amazing career and all I ever wanted to do was the best for the thousands of pupils I have had before me and for them to realise that they are unique, have special talents, and are able to fulfil their dreams, just as I did."

"Special thanks to my headteacher Marc Belli, who nominated me for this prestigious award, and my family – Tom my husband, and Heather and Lynette, my daughters – who have put up with my commitment to education and always given me the support to do what I was born to do."

STREET SURGERIES
HUW Irranca-Davies MP will be holding street surgeries in Maesteg West on Friday, June 7 between 1pm and 4pm.

Lib-Dem surgery
WELSH Liberal Democrat AM for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding advice surgeries on Friday, June 7 in Pencoed Library from 2pm to 3pm and at Porthcawl Library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. No appointment is necessary.

Quiz League questions

HERE are this week's specials:

1. Whose right to the English throne did the Duke of Monmouth challenge?

2. Name the surname of the brothers who starred in the film *The*

Fabulous Baker Boys?

3. In the first Test against New Zealand in May 2004, who became the first English batsman since Graham Thorpe in 1993 to score a century on his Test debut?

4. The Polk Strait separates which two countries?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

1. James II
2. Bridges
3. Andrew Strauss
4. India and Sri Lanka

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Community Exhibition

St Athan Search and Rescue base development proposals

Bristow Helicopters Ltd would like to invite members of the public to attend a drop-in community exhibition on the proposed development of the new Search and Rescue base at St Athan Airport.

The exhibition will provide the opportunity to examine plans for the development and attendees will be invited to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposals.

Date: Monday 10 June 2013, 12 noon – 8pm

Venue: Old School Hall Community Centre, Church Lane, St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 4PL

Free car parking is available.

GLAMORGAN HERITAGE ART EXHIBITION HAILED AS 'GREAT SUCCESS' AT CENTRE

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ST Donat's Art Centre played host to an art exhibition showcasing the 'Glamorgan Heritage Coast' over the month of May.

Artworks and photographs by more than 50 contributors were on show – all inspired by the Heritage Coast.

The exhibition, part of a project to raise the profile of the area, was organised by Nicola Sumner-Smith, a senior rural regeneration officer at Creative Rural Communities, in partnership with Tracey Harding, the arts development officer at the Vale Council.

A spokeswoman said that there was talk of touring the exhibition, and that the artists had been keen to work together again. As a result, it is hoped to develop an arts exchange programme.

For more information on the Heritage Coast Project, or to learn more about the Vale arts exchange, contact Nicola Sumner-Smith or Tracey Harding on 01446 700111 or e-mail artinthevale@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



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THIRTY ADULT LEARNERS HONoured AT PORTHCAWL AWARDS CEREMONY

THE achievements of almost 30 adult learners from across Bridgend county borough, have been celebrated at the annual Adult Community Learning (ACL) awards ceremony.

Held at the Grand Pavilion, the event highlighted learners' academic, creative and personal successes in subjects such as health and wellbeing, computers, photography, music and many more.

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Learning is for everyone and can be a life-

long experience. We understand that for many, getting back into the learning environment is extremely difficult, but we've seen the benefits through our learners' success – gaining confidence, developing new skills, attaining qualifications, and securing employment – some even starting up their own businesses.

"This demonstrates how successful and invaluable the courses offered by ACL and its partners can be.

"Without a doubt, this is a fantastic achievement by all the adult learners who are striving to improve their education and career prospects.

"The council is proud to offer accessible learning across a wide range of subjects, made available through our new Adult Community Learning partnership with Bridgend College, Welsh for Adults, Workers' Educational Association and Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations."

Becky John, a winner of the Arts and Crafts Learner award, enrolled on the Jazz up your Junk course in September 2012.

She said: "After falling down the stairs and severely injuring my spine, I had no choice but to put my career on hold. When I started feeling more positive, I decided to join ACL's 'Jazz Up Your Junk' course.

"The course has been incredibly important to me. It has helped with my confidence and self-esteem, has made a massive difference and given me more of my life back.

"The skills I have learnt on the course have been invaluable, it has enabled me to transfer the skills I've learnt to my kids. I've taught my daughter how to use a sewing machine and it gives me motivation to

see my daughter wanting to learn new skills too. Now I make crafts with the children and sell them at local fayres."

Terry Thomas, winner of the Skills Learner award, also lists confidence as one of the many benefits he gained from enrolling on an ACL course.

He said: "Unfortunately, I had a stroke on my left side, which left me with significant health problems. With a passion for learning, I enrolled

on the 'Essential Skills in Literacy' course, and it has improved my self-confidence.

"I find the written word so interesting. Since I've completed this course, it has made me more determined to achieve a GCSE. I want to see where I can take my imagination."

Presenting the awards were Council Leader Mel Nott, Janice Gregory AM and cabinet members Coun Lyn Morgan, Phil White, Huw David and Mike Gregory.



ABOVE: The successful adult learners display their certificates.

NEW TEAM SETTLING IN AT CHORAL SOCIETY

MEMBERS of a choral society are celebrating the first five months of 2013 under the successful direction of their new musical team.

Emma Arscott has moved from piano to podium – to become the new conductor of the Barry-based choir. Emma (nee Cureton) is a local girl who after studying at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School, went on to Trinity College, London, to study music, returning home after completing her degree.

Sian Davies, who has taken over the position of accompanist for the choir, is originally from Ferndale and is now living in North Cornelly.

She is the daughter of the late Bryan Davies, a much-loved and missed

accompanist, whose last performance, along with Sian, was a fundraiser for Barry Choral Society, where £800 was raised.

Sian graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, having trained with Richard McMahon, then went on to qualify as a teacher.

The choir has been learning a new repertoire and will be performing at St Mary's Church, Barry, on June 9 and at Crossway Methodist Church on August 3 at 7pm. (This is a joint venture with Barry Ladies Choir to raise funds for Crossway Church).

The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at Crossway Methodist Church from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

For more information, contact Emma on 07779594502.

CARITAS SET FOR CHARITY CONCERT

THANKS to the great GEM coverage of our first Caritas concert at Ewenny Priory, we raised £1,000 for the NSPCC and £150 for the Priory.

The next concert is to be held at St German's Church in

Roath, on Thursday June 27, at 7.45pm.

The aim this time is to raise over £1,000 for WaterAid, a wonderful charity, which provides water for third world villages that have no water at present.

The title of the programme is 'Music for Kings and Queens' with plenty of coronation emphasis – Parry's 'I was glad' (also sung at the entrance of the bride in the most recent royal wedding), 'Zadok the priest' plus Handel's other three Coronation anthems and some other great pieces of choral music. LINDSAY GRAY caritaschoir22@gmail.com

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a momentary perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Prostate cancer: 'Wales may become backwater for treatment' – TORY CLAIM

WELSH health from the Welsh Minister Mark NHS to have the Drakeford has procedure carried out in England. He was responding to a letter from a regional Tory AM, Byron Davies, who has backed a campaign launched by the

Glaze Charity and Prostate Cymru. At the moment, no centres in Wales have the robotic surgery equipment, which costs £1.7m, although 42 hospitals in England do have this equipment.

The Scottish and Northern Ireland Governments are due to buy this equipment for their own hospitals. Mr Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, is urging the Welsh Government to purchase this equipment and claimed that Welsh men were being "short-changed" at present.

"In England, men can have this treatment for nothing under the NHS, but if a Welsh patient goes over the border, he is given a bill for £18,000."

"That's because the Welsh Government has refused to fund it, apart from the case of one patient. This is leading to a two-tier health service in the UK with Wales on the bottom rung," he insisted.

"It's all very well for Mark Drakeford to say that patients can apply for special funding, he knows that just about every application for this treatment has failed."

"He does say that

technology has a major role to play in health treatment and that organisations in Wales have been invited to apply for funding.

"It is my understanding that Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board is to apply for funding to provide the first robot surgical equipment in Wales at The Heath."

"I sincerely hope that the funding for this will be provided via the Health Technology Fund. This robot can be used for other types of surgery as well as prostate so potentially, it can benefit a lot of patients."

"If the application is refused, Wales will become a backwater in the treatment of prostate cancer and we will fail to attract high calibre doctors to this speciality."

"They will rightly conclude that their careers cannot advance as they should if they are unable to undertake these procedures," Mr Davies concluded.

SHADOWS CLUB

ON June 11 at Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979) South Wales Shadows Club, 8pm; usually £3. All welcome.

Mounties get their man! DRUG DEALER IS CAUGHT IN PORTHCAWL

A DRUGS dealer has been jailed for three years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Rikki Williams (23) was spotted acting suspiciously by a mounted police patrol in Porthcawl.

Williams, of Conway Road, Newport, admitted possessing the class A drug cocaine with intent to supply, and offering to supply cannabis, mephadrone (known as meow meow) and NRG.

Recorder Geraint Walters told him: "You don't need me to have to tell you that the courts are enjoined to deal seriously with those supplying class A drugs."

"You took the risk and you were caught. I hope in the future that you will turn your back on criminal offending."

Prosecutor David Pugh said that around 8pm on September 29, a mounted police patrol spotted Williams acting suspiciously near the Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl. He was among a group who, upon seeing the police, threw away certain

by AJ
SICLUNA

packages.

One of the packages contained cocaine, which, said Mr Pugh, Williams had intended to retail to friends. It was worth about £200.

Williams was arrested and on two of his mobile phones were texts offering to sell drugs, including cannabis, meow meow and NRG.

Williams told officers that he had taken the drugs to Porthcawl and was showing them to a

number of people when the police arrived.

Mr Pugh said: "He played a significant role in the offences and was selling directly to users."

His counsel, Huw Evans, said: "There are two kinds of drug dealers; those in it for profit, and those who deal to fund their habit. He's in the second category."

For many years, said Mr Evans, Williams had had a problem with cocaine.

"He's not unintelligent and is anxious to turn his life around. I stress he is not a commercial supplier."

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International
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FEATURE**

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS WEEK

JUNE 10-16, 2013

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WHAT IS GLAUCOMA?

EXPERTS at Age Concern UK have issued advice and information about Glaucoma.

Glaucoma is one of the most common causes of preventable blindness. It can be picked up as part of a normal eye test and once treatment starts, its progress can be halted.

Here, Age Concern explains what glaucoma is and how it affects your sight, how certain groups of the population are at particular risk, the simple tests that can lead to its detection, and the treatments you may be offered.

Treatment cannot reverse damage already done and is likely to be necessary for the rest of

your life... but sight can be protected if it is picked up in time.

What is it?

Glaucoma is the name of a group of eye conditions that affect vision. Of the many types of glaucoma, chronic glaucoma is the most common.

It usually affects both eyes but can start in one eye before the other.

Often in chronic glaucoma, the pressure in the eye is higher than it should be and over time this causes damage to the optic nerve at the back of the eye.

The optic nerve carries visual information from the light sensitive part of the eye to the brain, where it is translated into a picture. Damage to the optic nerve can affect sight.

Why does it occur?

The eye produces a fluid (aqueous fluid) that helps maintain the shape of the eyeball and transports nutrients to the eye.

This fluid is produced by cells behind the coloured part of the eye (the iris) and is not the

same as the fluid that forms tears.

Normally the amount of fluid produced is balanced by the amount draining away through special drainage channels.

In glaucoma, the balance between the production and draining away of fluid may not be correct. If the fluid doesn't drain away properly, then eye pressure can build up and damage the optic nerve.

Why some eyes don't deal with the balance of fluid properly, is still not clear. Glaucoma is problematic, as it is not painful and there are no symptoms until it is really advanced.

It usually starts by affecting side vision (peripheral vision). The subject often doesn't notice this, as the brain can compensate for a large amount of this part of vision being affected.

Considerable damage can be done to side vision before the subject realises, so it is important to have regular eye checks that include checks for glaucoma.

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Needless blindness: How it can be avoided

CHRONIC glaucoma affects two per cent of the population over the age of 40, increasing to over 10 per cent for those aged 75 or more.

There are about 500,000 people in Wales and England with glaucoma, and about 70 million worldwide, making it one of the leading causes of blindness.

Unfortunately, there are no symptoms until extensive irreversible damage to the optic nerve has occurred resulting in unrecoverable vision loss, and it is estimated that up to 50 per cent of people with glaucoma are undiagnosed.

Frustratingly, needless blindness from glaucoma can be easily averted as it can often be treated with simple eye drops. The key to successful treatment is early diagnosis.

To increase your chance of being diagnosed early, you should have a sight test at least every two years – or more frequently if you have a first degree relative with glaucoma.

There are three basic tests used to screen for

glaucoma, and for some patients it may be available on the NHS; for others, there will be a charge.

Even then, a basic sight test can often only detect glaucoma when substantial nerve damage has already occurred.

Fortunately, at Jones & Jones Optometrists, Dr Adrian Jones is one of only a handful of optometrists in the UK who holds a specialist qualification in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma.

After spending almost a decade in specialist clinics at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff and Bristol Eye Hospital, he has a wealth of knowledge and clinical expertise.

Dr Jones is able to offer a gold standard glaucoma diagnostic service and comprehensive ongoing aftercare.

If you are concerned about the possibility of glaucoma, Jones & Jones Optometrists on High Street in Barry have dedicated glaucoma diagnostic and management clinics.

To book an appointment, please ring 01446 400015 visit our website on www.jonesandjones.org.uk.

NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS WEEK

JUNE 10-16, 2013

Glaucoma group's next meeting

THE next meeting of the Princess of Wales Hospital Glaucoma support group takes place on Friday, June 14.

The venue is the photography waiting area in the Eye Unit, Bridgend Eye Clinic, Coity Road, Bridgend, at 1.30pm.

The meeting will include a talk by Eryl Williams of the IGA and an introduction by Nathan Foy.

Enquiries to Maureen Griffiths, eye clinic liaison officer, on 07884 310992.

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CARERS WEEK

10-16 June 2013

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CARERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY CARE FOR

'BOBBIES ON CALL' ARE OFF TO A FLYING START!

CO-DIRECTORS and namesakes Bob Evans and Bob McAlister are delighted with the response to the initial wave of advertising and publicity in The GEM, for their newly-launched 'Bobbies on Call' (BOC) venture – which has been up and running in the Vale of Glamorgan and surrounding areas for just four weeks.

Bob Evans said: "We have yet to meet anyone who has told us that this offer of on-call support and practical help is anything other than a great idea. The formula of having former police and emergency service workers at your call, has really grabbed the imagination and it seems to fill a void in people's lives."

"We are not seeking to replace anything that is there already for people, in terms of support, but our callers show that there was a gap."

"The positive feedback has been very welcome, as it confirms that our instincts for the business were correct."

Co-founder Bob McAlister commented: "I can't tell you how touched I was when one lady – our very first customer – said on receiving her first catch up call

with the team: 'I really feel that knowing there is someone at the end of the phone for me, has made a difference to my life already.'"

"When you leave the force, you tend to miss certain parts of the job, but now being back in the role of helping people has replaced some of that job satisfaction. If our business can continue to do that for others, then that suits us all," he added.

Bob Evans from Penllyn, Cowbridge, began his career in 1980 at the age of 17, rising through the ranks of South Wales Police and retiring with the rank of Assistant Chief Constable.

'Bobbies On Call' is a subscription-based service available on a 24-hours a day, seven-days a week call line for household maintenance problems.

Staffed by teams of retired police officers and emergency services staff, it incorporates a range of practical support services, from minor crisis resolution, handyman support and house minding to crime prevention advice, chauffeur and general companionship.

Bob McAlister, who also held a senior position at South Wales Police, said 'Bobbies On Call' suits those people who live alone and may not always have reliable help close to hand.

"We've set up the service as

we want to put our knowledge and dependability to good use," he explains.

"With many years service apiece, there is very little that 'Bobbies On Call' personnel haven't encountered and dealt with calmly and efficiently."

Adds Bob Evans: "Our hand-picked staff understand that day-to-day concerns can prevent those who live alone from enjoying their home and sense of well-being."

"Cold-callers, rogue traders, worrying if your property is safe and secure – are all issues that can cause anxiety. Then there are the day-to-day niggles people wish were sorted out – from a light fitting that needs fixing – to help making sense of a utilities bill or contract."

Both Bobs believe that just knowing there is someone at the end of the phone who can call round and help out can make all the difference. They are confident elderly people will come to rely on a service which asks that they 'Call Bob'.

Even in these early stages, it seems that the Vale is seeing the value of the services offered by their 'two Bobs'.

For more information about all the services offered by the Bobs and their team, call the dedicated line on 01446 656789, or visit www.bobbiesoncall.com.



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CARERS WEEK

10-16 June 2013

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CARERS AND THE PEOPLE THEY CARE FOR

CARERS' WEEK QUESTION..

Can the UK cope with rising carer numbers?

ACROSS the UK, the number of people caring, unpaid, for a family member or friend who is ill, frail, and disabled, has now risen to 6.5 million.

Every day, at least 6,000 people start caring. Becoming a carer can impact significantly on a person's life – it takes time, energy, can leave you isolated, and can be costly.

Prepared to Care? – the 2013 Carers' Week campaign – will focus on how the UK's current carer population is coping, how effectively the Government is supporting the growing numbers of carers, and whether the wider population is prepared for future caring responsibilities.

Through *Prepared to Care?* Carers' Week will highlight the impact of caring on daily life and, with an ageing population and higher incidence of disability and serious illness, encourage the public to think whether they could manage a caring role.

Prepared to Care? will also help those already caring to make sure they are accessing all the practical and emotional support they need to care safely and look after themselves.

A new report to be published for Carers' Week will highlight to Government the changes required to improve the lives of carers and the people they care for.

From June 10-16, 2,000 organisations will be involved in 10,000 Carers' Week *Prepared to Care?* events.

Keep up to date with campaign developments at: www.carersweek.org, www.facebook.com/carersweek, Twitter @carersweek.

CARERS – KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

ACARER is someone who looks after a relative, friend or neighbour who is unable to manage at home without help.

This may be because they are elderly, disabled by physical or mental ill health, have a learning disability, drug or alcohol problem, or have a long term illness. The care they give is unpaid. In the current economic climate, it is more

important than ever that carers know their rights and access the help and support that is available to them.

Information and advice is available to assist with benefit claims, to get practical support, such as a break

from caring, and to find out how technology can help them.

It is a fact that many carers do not recognise themselves as carers and do not know what help is available, even when they have been caring for years.

A carers assessment from your local council will identify if there is any support or services a carer needs to help them in their caring role.

Additional practical or emotional support may be available from local charities, organisations and support groups, which is why people need to find out what can be provided.

A directory of services for carers and other information for carers is available from local information sources in the Vale such as Citizens Advice Bureau, GP surgeries, libraries and other health and social care services.

More detailed information can be found on the following websites: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/carers or www.cardiffand-valeuhb.wales.nhs.uk/information-for-carers

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CELEBRATING TWO DECADES OF CARE



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The company was founded by Mr Jeremy Llewellyn in 1993 and was originally run from a small office at the nursing home he also owned.

All Care provides domiciliary care in the community to the Vale of Glamorgan, and has also expanded to cover Cardiff, providing care – from 15-minute calls to 24-hour packages.

Over the past 20 years, All Care has held ISO accreditation and Investors In People awards.

The staff have scooped care awards for the last five years.

To celebrate this milestone, a party was arranged for the staff, service users and dignitaries.

The celebrations included long service awards for staff who have been with the company for 10 years or more, a buffet and entry

into a free raffle for all who attended.

"We would like to thank all of our staff and supporters who

have been a vital part in our journey to this important milestone," the company stated.



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Do you provide support to a member of your family or friend who has an illness or disability?

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- Cyrsiau hyfforddi amrywiol i chi helpu i ymdopi
- Pecyn gwybodaeth
- Diwrnodau gwybodaeth
- Grwpiau Cymorth
- Cyfle i chi drafod eich anghenion



If you would like further information or to request your carers pack, please call: Help pam fydd angen trefnu ar gyfer
Argyfwng am fwy o wybodaeth a phecyn gofalu-wyr ffoniwch:

01446 704604

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk carersservices@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Local charity salutes volunteers

DURING National Volunteers' Week (June 1-7) Guide Dogs Cymru is thanking its 500 Welsh volunteers – puppy walkers and boarders, drivers and charity box collectors, who donate time to help blind and partially sighted people enjoy freedom of movement.

GEM readers may have spotted Hilary Williams of Porthcawl taking guide dogs for a run on Newton Beach.

As a volunteer boarder, she makes sure that when their owners go on holiday, the dog enjoys a break, too.

She said: "Being a boarder is rewarding and enjoyable. It gives me and my husband Alan all the advantages of having a dog without the demands of actual ownership."

If anyone would like to volunteer for Guide Dogs Cymru, contact 0845 372 7405 or email Steve.Kersley@guidedogs.org.uk

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In Business Update

Decision time for retiring Baby-Boomers

MANY people reaching retirement age are desperately in need of professional, independent financial advice.

Normally, once you've made the decision of how to take your retirement income, it is very hard – almost impossible – to undo, so making the right decision is crucial.

The many options available are affected by your own personal circumstances – do you take what's on offer from the existing pension provider (you don't have to!), and if so, does this provide for you and your spouse's future plans?

Poor health history,

eg raised blood pressure, or certain lifestyle choices, such as being a smoker, mean that you are likely to qualify for a higher lifelong income.

A simple and short meeting with an independent financial advisor will quickly establish your options and see how possible it is to get close to your desired financial future.

Most IFAs will conduct this initial meeting at their cost, as they need to establish whether they are able to help or not.

If they do help, you can elect to pay their fee directly, or choose to use your pension to cover the cost of this invaluable service.

For more information, call or email CBK Wales. (See below).

Make the home look its best with Modern Decorations

WHETHER you want to give a room a fresh look with new curtains or blinds, or find something to suit an existing colour scheme, Modern Decorations have what you are looking for.

Geoff Brown has over 30 years' experience in advising on and supplying curtains and blinds to both the domestic and contract market.

He can call at a customer's home, or place

of work at their convenience, and offers the full service of measuring, make-up and fitting, without customers having to spend time shopping around.

He has a wide range of fabric samples and colours with amazing textures to suit any room.

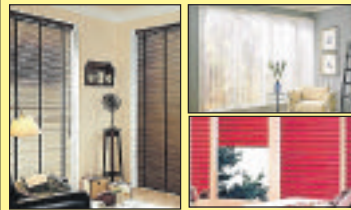
Estimates are free, with no obligation and all requirements can be accommodated.

Telephone Geoff on 01446 739174, or 07718 536838 – and get your home looking its best.

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Specialist Children Law Team

If you have any queries relating to the following please contact us

- Contact & residence disputes.
- Social Services involvement with children & families.
- Child protection Issues
- Domestic violence involving children & families.

We can provide Legal Aid for Social Services matters involving children & families (subject to status). We provide a FREE 30 MINUTES consultation for family matters relating to children.

Telephone 01446 420043
Email admin@colinjonesolicitors.co.uk
17 Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4JL

PROTECTING WEALTH FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS

NEW statistics show that while wealth is cascading down the generations like never before, the taxation on it has increased significantly.

An example of this is the Inheritance Tax allowance being frozen at £325K, bringing an estimated 5,000 estates into the Inheritance Tax

net. There are many uses of wills and trusts that can help achieve protection of your estate for generations to come.

However, to be effective, you need to be proactive.

The initial consultation is at our expense – we speak your language and come to you.

Contact Mark Wintle today on 07751 335809.

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THE Parrott Mki9100 is a Bluetooth hands-free system with LCD screen and steering wheel remote control.

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Once set up, there's really no need to remove your phone from your pocket to make or receive phone calls in future.

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And you can even play all your favourite music tunes from your smartphone directly to your car stereo – again, without removing it from your pocket (or handbag, girls!).

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Stamping out Vale 'litter bugs'

LITTER comes in many forms, from dog fouling, to chewing gum, fast food wrappers, drinks cans/bottles, flyers – the list goes on.

It is an offence to litter and there are council enforcement compliance officers patrolling

the Vale, who are watching for potential offenders.

However, the team cannot be everywhere all the time. The council's waste management and cleansing team members, like Phil Grant and Mike Perrett, are keen to stamp out littering.

The Vale Council's cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, said: "In public places,

we have to provide a team who litter pick – often seven days a week.

"Clearly, we would rather be spending money on different areas of our service provision.

"Littering is a crime. While most residents and visitors are respectful, some flaunt the law – which is clearly unacceptable on many levels."

What's in your bin?
Tel: 01446 700111 Email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Our Recycling Team put the SPOTLIGHT ON

Stamping out 'litter bugs' in the Vale...

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www.cbkwales.co.uk

Email: info@cbkwales.co.uk

CBK Wales is a trading style of CBK (Swansea) Ltd which is an appointed representative of TenetConnect Services Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Changes to legal aid for children and families

COLIN JONES Solicitors' specialist children law team are dedicated to providing legal services to children and families in Barry and surrounding areas of the Vale.

We provide advice and assistance in matters concerning residence and contact disputes, social services involvement, child protection issues and other children's matters.

Since April 1, 2013,

legal aid has been cut to a wide range of areas, including divorce and child contact and residence disputes.

For those unable to obtain legal aid, Colin Jones Solicitors can offer a tailored service to assist in family disputes involving children.

We offer a first half hour free, no obligation, consultation.

In addition, there are some exceptions when legal aid is still available where there are, or have been, domestic violence or child protection issues involving social services.

If you are a parent, grandparent or relative, and require advice and assistance regarding any of these matters, please contact our team at our offices in Barry, telephone 01446 420043.

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In Business Update

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AN important part of owning any bike is cycle maintenance; keeping your bicycle well serviced will ensure you receive years of trouble-free riding.

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last longer and increase the pleasure you take from cycling.

We offer a range of services at competitive prices, both mobile and workshop-based, covering the Vale of Glamorgan area – helping you reduce the risk of more expensive repairs in the long run.

Peter Hills,
Vale Cycle Servicing

New biofuels causing havoc for farmers and Aga users

NEW biofuels used in gas oil (red diesel) are causing havoc for farmers across Wales – according to independent oil distribution company Oil 4 Wales.

Understandably, everyone's first reaction is to blame quality of fuel delivered by their oil distributor.

However, because of the new EU requirement for lower sulphur levels in a bid to reduce engine emissions, the UK's gas oil specifica-

tion was changed in 2011, causing major problems for those in the agricultural sector.

Sulphur was removed from fuel, removing the fuel's natural lubricating properties, and biofuels were added to a maximum of 7 per cent.

The main problem affecting farmers due to the increased proportion of biofuels in gas oil, is water pick-up.

Biofuels are hydroscopic and attract water, which builds up in tanks – causing engine damage, increased tank deposits, bug contamination, rough running, haze (water in suspen-

sion), layering and filter blocking problems.

To combat these problems, farmers are encouraged to include an additive such as Exocet Gas Oil Extra to their fuel as a matter of course.

It is not just farmers who are experiencing difficulties.

Homeowners with oil-fired Agas and Rayburns that use kerosene are also exposed to the problem.

In the UK, there are fewer refineries producing kerosene than in recent years, causing a supply issue.

The high percentage

of kerosene now being imported is of much more variable fuel quality.

This variable quality is not the fault of the UK fuel distributors, as they can only sell what they can load from the UK distribution points.

While the oil being distributed still meets the relevant British Standard (BS2869 Class G), it is much higher than Aga's recommended char value of 4-7, which is why many are said to be caking up with soot, and in some cases conking out.

Owners of these oil-fired cookers are again encouraged to put a fuel additive, such as Exocet, into their oil to reduce the char value. A bottle of Exocet, which costs £20, treats 1,000 litres of kerosene.

As part of its commitment to the farming community of Wales, Oil 4 Wales has introduced a special offer for the silage season.

For every order of gas oil above 1,000 litres, farmers can request that Exocet Gas Oil Extra (worth £23 per litre) is added to their oil, which will be done free of charge.

The offer is valid between June and the end of August. Exocet Gas Oil Extra must be requested at the time of order, so the correct dosage can be added to the fuel.

Oil 4 Wales is a family-run independent oil distribution company working with the community for the community.

For more information, visit:
www.oil4wales.co.uk or call your local depot:
Cardiff – 02920 674 910; Carmarthen – 01267 275 777; Milford Haven 01646 400 405; Felinfach 01570 218015.

Family mediation at your service

WE are pleased to announce that Passmores solicitors are now able to offer family mediation, both on a privately-paying and legally-aided basis.

We are able to assist with mediation in all aspects of family disputes, including children's issues and financial settlements, in an attempt to resolve such issues amicably.

Passmores are able to offer mediation on a legally-aided basis and we would be happy to assess your eligibility.

For more information, please telephone 01446 721000, or email us on mail@passmores.com.



Passmores Solicitors

We specialise in:-

- ☑ Contact & Residence
- ☑ Mediation
- ☑ Legal Aid
- ☑ Matrimonial & Relationship Breakdown

Contact us on 01446 721000
21 Tynwydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB
www.passmores.com
mail@passmores.com

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VALE Podiatry & Chiropody have the answer for all your foot problems at our two clinics in Cowbridge and Llantwit Major.

We also offer home appointments to patients who, due to poor mobility, find it difficult to come to the clinic.

Mother and daughter team, Angela and Sarah, specialise in assessing, diagnosing and treating abnormalities and diseases of the lower limb.

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www.valepodiatry.co.uk

HOME VISITS

Ashdown Fencing & Landscaping Ltd

ESTABLISHED for 28 years, this local company is proficient in all types of fencing, gates and hard landscaping. Ashdown covers all domestic, agricultural and industrial projects.

Richard Taylor, owner and founder of Ashdown Fencing since 1985, is proud to offer high quality services at affordable prices around the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff.

Ashdown is a fully-qualified and professional business, offering a free estimate and expert advice. Renowned for a range of services in fencing and landscaping, Ashdown can accommodate all your renewal and refurbishment needs.

Find out more on the Ashdown website. Contact 01446 773949; mobile 07714 241749; email rich@ashdown-group.co.uk; website www.ashdownfencing.co.uk; address, Unit 10B, Vale Business Park, Llandow, CF71 7PF; also find us on Facebook and Twitter.



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HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS...

HERE at Thomas Kitchens and Bedrooms, we believe that "Home is where the heart is" – which is why we are committed to providing quality products at affordable prices.

In this way, everyone can enjoy the luxury of a beautiful kitchen or bedroom, whatever the budget, or whether it be of a traditional, contemporary or modern design.

With a variety of special offers, flexible design appointments, quality products at competitive prices, a welcoming showroom and over 20 years' installation experience, Thomas Kitchens and Bedrooms can take the strain out of making that dream transformation a reality.

Please call 01656 662665 for friendly, professional advice.



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www.thomaskitchensandbedrooms.co.uk



Oil 4 Wales
Olew dros Gymru

FARMERS!

Gas oil additive promotion from Oil 4 Wales for the silage season

Farmers who order 1,000 litres or over of gas oil (red diesel) between June & August can have Exocet Gas Oil Extra added free of charge.

Gas oil additive must be requested at the time of order so the correct quantity of fuel additive can be added.

To take advantage of this offer, visit

www.oil4wales.co.uk

or call your local depot . . .

Cardiff: 02920 674 910
Carmarthen: 01267 275 777
Milford Haven: 01646 400 405
Felinfach: 01570 218 015

**Olew dros Gymru
Oil 4 Wales**

*Working with the community,
for the community*

Cardiff Cleaning and Maintenance have the Solutions

A BLOCKED downpipe, if left unattended it may cause rotting fascia, and lead to damp problems.

Having the gutters cleared may be pointless without a clear downpipe.

We don't just clean the gutters. We can give the whole exterior a facelift, eg fascia, conservatory roof cleaning, windows and frames cleaned, painting, trees and bushes cut back, pressure wash and sealant to paths and patios – especially convenient if you are thinking of selling, as first impressions count.

Contact Andy on 07830 480569 (preferable), or 01446 741460.

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Financial advice face-to-face

WE are a firm of professionally qualified, independent financial advisers based in Cowbridge within the Vale of Glamorgan and Swansea.

We aim to provide you with the best advice, the best service, and the best information on pensions, investments, mortgages and protection.

We offer face-to-face advice and we feel that the best advice comes from taking care and time with our clients.

This is why we will cover the costs of any initial meeting in our offices.

We use the latest technology in back

office systems. Our system 'True Potential' won a first place award at the 2011 Money Marketing Financial Services for best use of technology.

Our system can allow clients to have a secure access to their portfolio at any time, whether you wish to gather your latest valuation for your investments, or send a secure message to your adviser.

For honest independent financial advice from a firm with great integrity, contact us on 01446 771949/01446 773669 – or request a call back to book an appointment, or to discuss your current situation in more depth.

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In Business Update



High quality, but no high price tags...

WE are a local family-run business based in south Wales, who pride ourselves on high quality products – without the designer price tag.

We will work with any budget and offer a completely bespoke service, in which we design your bridal bouquet and accessories around what you want,

incorporating all those extra personal touches at no extra cost.

We endeavour to make you feel special on your big day and we will meet face-to-face when possible, to ensure that everything is just perfect.

With hand-made, personally-designed accessories, we can guarantee that nobody will have the same as you.

Just call Toni on 07917 617911.

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email: katiejae@dreambouquets.co.uk
www.dreambouquets.co.uk

The benefits of meditation

HAVE you ever wondered why meditation has been shown to improve all aspects of health?

This is to do with the difference between the two sides of our brain:

The left brain keeps us safe by working out what has happened before and what might happen in the future. We engage our left brain when we worry.

The right brain deals with the now and carries the blueprint for health.

When we meditate, we switch off our left brain and allow our right brain to keep us healthy.

It has been shown to normalise blood pressure, reduce stress, improve digestion and promote restful sleep.

Health Conscious is now offering Meditation for Health sessions on Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm.

Health Conscious

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www.healthconscious.org.uk

Hypnotherapy can help boost your self-belief

ISN'T it interesting that we are all born having confidence? Often the effect of life experiences can dent our self-belief.

If left unchecked, this may cause us to have difficulties ranging from exams, job interviews and public speaking to being unable to stand up for yourself; relationship problems, or feeling incapable of going after the things you want in life.

Confidence can be an underlying factor for weight problems or phobias.

Unfortunately, when we don't have appropriate confidence in our

abilities it can lead to low self-esteem and a negative view of the future, as well as feelings of anxiety.

Fortunately, solution-focused hypnotherapy can help to reduce and eliminate anxiety and work with your subconscious mind – to reawaken your natural confidence, optimism and motivation to succeed; and to help you go after those things in life which are important to you.

For a chat, or to arrange a Free Initial Consultation, contact Sue Pitman on 07795 964066 cardiffhypnotherapy@solutionsatgm.com

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Contact Sue Pitman HPD, DHP, MNCH (Reg) on 07795 964066 / 029 20654893

Confidential free initial consultation with no obligation at:

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Barefoot Studio, Cowbridge
The Business Centre, Barry
www.cardiffhypnotherapy.solutionsatgm.com

Beth is back at Satchells!

SATCHELLS Hair Salon of Ewenny are excited to let all their customers know that Beth Crofts has agreed to become the new manager of the salon.

Beth (senior stylist) had previously worked with Satchells, but decided to take a year out and worked in

Australia.

Thankfully, she has now decided to come back home and accepted a new and exciting job role as the manager of Satchells.

James Satchell, co-owner of Satchells, will still be working his magic in the salon; however, he will enjoy doing a little more teaching!

To book an appointment, please contact the team on 01656 655005.

SATCHELLS HAIR SALON of EWENNY

Re-introducing
BETH CROFTS
as our new
Salon Manager



01656 655005
Wick Road, Ewenny, CF35 5BL

The rise and rise of Goose Island

PROPRIETOR Karen Hutchings first experienced the fashion poten-

tial of Balinese products on a visit in 1993, and she knew she had to share these riches with everyone at home in the UK. Goose Island was born in 1994.

Bali has since been the main inspiration for Goose Island, and both Karen and her husband Peter travel to Bali, and also India, on a regular basis to source products – ensuring that all production complies with Fair Trade regulations.

All of their clothing, jewellery and accessories are handmade under fair and ethical conditions.

Karen and Peter have built their vibrant, popular Cowbridge business by taking great pride in the quality and beauty of their products, resulting in the Goose Island label now being sold throughout the UK and Europe.

Their helpful, professional staff complete this winning team.

to raise awareness of generational poverty on Thursday, July 11 from 9am to 1pm at Hebron Hall, Dinas Powys.

The event is aimed towards children and young people, anyone who works with children or young people and decision-makers, senior managers and frontline staff from all sectors.

For more information, contact 01446 731628, or email lpellis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or slloyd@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Goose Island

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Church organ appeal target

FUNDRAISERS aiming to raise £70,000 to restore the organ at All Saints' Church, Park Road, Barry are just under £2,400 short of the target.

On Saturday, June 8, there will be a chance to edge nearer the £70,000 total when 'AMICIA' presents a Choral Spectacular in the church at 7.30pm.

Admission £8 adults and £4 children (pay on the door). All proceeds to the organ appeal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Everyone welcome.

PTA fayre
GLADSTONE Primary School PTA, Barry, holds a summer fayre on Saturday, June 8, from 12pm – 3.30pm; craft stalls, games, tombola, refreshments, stocks.

Anti-poverty awareness
THE Vale Council's Children and Young People's Partnership is hosting an event

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The Welsh Summer Country Fair and Food Festival at Fonmon Castle, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3ZN

15th & 16th June, 2013

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This Summer Fair and Food Festival is one of Wales' great days out

SET in the glorious and exclusive surroundings of Fonmon Castle, on Saturday and Sunday June 15 - 16 the Welsh Summer Country Fair and Food Festival will be celebrating summer in style.

Organised by Country Fairs Wales Ltd, an event management company based in Llantwit Major, this is a unique event where a bunting-clad marquee village nestles right next door to one of the prettiest medieval castles in Wales - Fonmon Castle.

Our chosen venue is the perfect setting to taste the very best in award-winning artisan food, real ales, cider and fine wines, as well as the chance to browse amongst a beautiful selection of hand crafted unique jewellery, accessories and fashion plus charming outdoor vintage furniture and garden accessories.

With more than 120 exhibitors to choose from, discover all things charming, stylish and chic to add inspirational style to your home, kitchen and garden.

Enjoy a leisurely stroll around the castle gardens or simply sit and enjoy a picnic.

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For chef demos and free wine tastings visit our pop-up demonstration marquee.

With our champagne marquee hosting live music, featuring local celebrity Aubrey Parsons, the soul band, Dansette and the wonderful Livestock Davies and the Lowdown Snakes, you can leave feeling that you have experienced one of the best summer days out in Wales this year.

The Welsh Country Fair will be open to the public from 10am to 6pm on both Saturday, June 15, and Sunday, June 16. Admission is £7 for adults. Children under five enter free of charge and children aged between five and 16 admission is £1.

For more information contact the organisers:

Country Fairs Wales Ltd.
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Warm welcome from Fonmon

FONMON CASTLE is looking forward to another busy and successful summer 'earning its keep'.

The castle is used for a wide variety of events, both outside in the extensive gardens and 80 acres of grounds, or inside with its wealth of history and stunning Georgian interiors.

The family provides a warm, friendly atmosphere and so Fonmon lends itself perfectly to any occasion, including wedding ceremonies and receptions, private party bookings and group tours and teas.

This year again they are delighted to welcome the Vale Show in August, and after a very successful first year, the Welsh Summer Country Fair and Food Festival returns on June 15-16.

FONMON CASTLE
Receive a warm welcome at
this Summer

PUBLIC OPENING TIMES:

The Castle is open on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm-5pm (last tour 4pm) until 30th September.

The Guided Tour is £5.50 and access to the gardens is free.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Welsh Summer Country Fair & Food Festival - June 15th & 16th - individual designers, small businesses, unique crafts and gourmet teas served in the Castle
www.welshcountryfairs.co.uk/

The Vale Show - August 21st - the largest one day event in the Vale of Glamorgan with something for all the family
www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk

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June 15th & 16th



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Llongyfarchiadau! Local schools excel at the Urdd

Pupils from 'Aelwyd Porthcawl', which draws its members from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, were among the local winners at last week's Urdd National Eisteddfod.

CHILDREN from Bridgend county borough schools performed well at the Urdd National Eisteddfod in Pembrokeshire last week.

North Cornelly primary school Ysgol Ferch O'r Sgêr brought back three sets of winners' medals from west Wales, with 10-year-old musician Eddie Mead collecting first prize in the string solo for cello, as well as the brass solo competition for cornet.

Performance group 'Aelwyd Porthcawl', which draws its members from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, were also celebrating top spot in the Cerdd Dant Party category.

Coety Primary School took to the stage with 10 talented youngsters competing in the



recital contests for Welsh second language learners. It was the first time that the school has had pupils taking part in the recitals, and they narrowly missed out on the grand final – with 10-year-old Millie Jenkins being awarded fourth place, seven-year-old Maisy Dodd picking up fifth, and eight pupils taking fourth place in the group recital competition.

Headteacher Heather Morgan said: "All of

the children spoke with confidence and did fantastically well. We are immensely proud of them and we are very excited to have achieved so much!

"I would like to thank our Welsh teachers Mrs Clark and Miss Joshua, who have both worked extremely hard with the children, as well as parents who have been so supportive throughout the competition."

Maesteg's Ysgol Cynwyd Sant had 58

pupils wowing the judges in several dance categories, including 'Dawnsio Gwerin' (under-10s folk dancing), 'Can Actol' (action song), 'Cyflwyniad Dramatig' (dramatic presentation) and 'Dawnsio Creadiogl' (creative dance), for which they received a coveted second place award.

Congratulations these schools and others, Coun Huw David, BCBC cabinet member for children and young

people, said: "The Urdd National Eisteddfod is always a fantastic event that celebrates Welsh culture and so many talented children have represented Bridgend county borough with distinction this year.

"To have made it through the regional rounds to reach the national stages is a tremendous achievement in itself, and I'm sure that the schools will start making plans for next year soon!"

Welfare reform letter 'inaccurate'

TORY CHAIRMAN HITS BACK

IN response to S Bowyer's letter regarding welfare reform (The GEM, May 30) I am writing to clarify a number of inaccuracies.

With regard to the spare room subsidy, it is a fact that around 250,000 families in the UK live in overcrowded accommodation and there are hundreds of thousands on local authority housing waiting lists across the UK.

Nearly one third of working age social housing tenants on housing benefits are living in accommodation that is too big for their needs.

That equates to nearly a million spare rooms, currently being paid for by the taxpayer and denying hundreds of thousands of people the chance to adequately house their families.

Hardworking taxpayers have to make tough choices of their own about what sort of property they can afford to live in, and they should not be paying for what is effectively a benefit subsidy for empty rooms.

Indeed, in the 2010 Labour Party Manifesto, Ed Miliband, the current Labour Party leader, recognised this by saying: "Housing benefit will be reformed to ensure that we do not subsidise people to live in the private sector on rents that other ordinary working families could not afford".

It should also be made clear that the most vulnerable groups are protected by the policy, contrary to what S Bowyer claims.

Exceptions include the elderly, fos-

ter carers, carers for the disabled, families with severely disabled children, armed forces personnel and recently bereaved families.

With regard to DLA, it is clearly an outdated and flawed system with the vast majority of people getting the benefit for life without systematic checks to see if their condition has changed.

This has led to hundreds of millions of pounds in overpayments and underpayments. This is why the new PIP introduces a new face-to-face assessment and regular reviews, to make sure support is going to those who need it most.

The priority is to support those facing the greatest challenges to live an independent life.

Finally, the myths peddled by the Labour Party and their proxies need to be well and truly dispelled. The Conservative-led coalition Government has cut income tax for 24 million people and taken 2.2 million out of income tax altogether and, as a result of all of the changes, nine out of 10 working families will be better off by almost £300 on average.

It is very clear from S Bowyer's letter that Labour have completely abandoned the hundreds of thousands of families in this country living in overcrowded accommodation and don't feel that restoring fairness to the welfare system is necessary at all.

Alex Williams
Chairman, Bridgend Conservative Association



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Dull, mundane and lacking in laughs... This is one Hangover you won't want to suffer through!

THE third part of a trilogy or franchise is never easy to get right, as the likes of Sam Raimi, Chris Nolan (amongst others) can attest.

It's even more difficult in the world of comedy – just see *American Wedding*, the third *American Pie* film, or even *Police Academy: Back In Training* for a crash course in comedies going wrong.

For *The Hangover Part 3*, the gang return on the back of huge box office (perhaps a driving factor in the film's

greenlighting) and sees the 'Wolfpack' of Alan (Zach Galifianakis), Stu (Ed Helms) and Phil (Bradley Cooper) forced into a mission to find Chow (Ken Jeong) after he steals \$21million from Marshall (John Goodman), a mission that will be nowhere near straightforward...

Despite part two of this franchise being a carbon copy of the first, I personally found it very funny, undemanding fun that played up the good nature of the first film, while adding drama and scale.

It is sad to report, then, that *The Hangover Part 3* is one of the least amusing films I've seen in recent memory, an exercise in milking a cash cow before it goes



by **GARETH JAMIESON**
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dry and film fans flock to something else.

The legacy of the first film is one still being felt, as studios are even now jumping on the coattails, making comedies that push excess to the limits, but this outing is a huge disappointment, eschewing the puzzle piece narrative that made the first two films enjoyable for a straightforward story that moves along at a predictable rate of knots.

The sense of not knowing just where you were going to end up next was the franchise's key calling card, but by framing the story in such a simplistic and linear fashion, it means that

any sense of shock and surprise is lacking; it also pushes more weight onto the comedy which is, itself, very poor.

Written by director Todd Phillips and Craig Mazin, they not only fail to create any memorable comedy moments, nor anything to really make you laugh out loud; instead the plot moves in slightly darker circles that make laughs an awkward proposition (particularly an incident with a cockerel and a pillow).

They also reduce the characters to almost nothing, Stu and Phil having no defining characteristics at all, and put too much weight on characters like Alan and Chow that while very funny in fits and starts, just can't hold the film on their shoulders.

Chow is a divisive character anyway, pleasing in small doses – but here, put centre stage, his comedic potential diminishes the more we see of him – and the same applies to Alan, whose man-child schtick is again amusing but loses power as the film goes on.

The cast try, with Zach Galifianakis again shining the brightest, but

in a role that feels excessively familiar now, but both Bradley Cooper and Ed Helms look decidedly bored with the whole thing. Jeong is a grating presence, and only Melissa McCarthy brings some life to proceedings as a pawn shop clerk taken by Alan.

It's a shame that such an exciting and funny film series has ended on such a downer, but it's hardly surprising given how the longer these things run the lower the quality tends to get; as it is, *The Hangover Part 3* is something that not even the strongest painkiller could make better.

VERDICT: Painfully unfunny, predictable and mundane, *The Hangover Part 3* is a disappointing conclusion to the franchise. With the cast either too much or not given enough, and a script that dispenses with clever twists for more straightforward storytelling, this is one Hangover not worth suffering through! Poor.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Hangover* (2009), *Project X* (2012).

SHAKE! two charity walkers complete Welshcoast marathon

Long distance
walkers, Charlie
and Al, are pictured
at Wye Bridge.



LAST Friday, saw the end of a marathon 870-mile charity walk covering the whole of the Wales Coastal Path.

Two hardened walkers, Charlie Blackwell (64) and Sandy Monkman from Derby, set out on April 25 in north east Wales, aiming to raise funds for St Luke's Hospice in Sheffield, and completed the final stage at Wye Bridge, Chepstow.

During the walk, they stayed in many towns and villages along the route, including Llantwit Major and Penarth.

In Penarth they met up with former town mayor, Coun Anthony Ernest.

"Charlie and Al achieved a marvellous result in covering the entire path end to end. I know that they have been able to attract a large sum for their chosen charity. Probably they are amongst the very first to actually walk the entire route, and possibly act as pathfinders for future similar charitable walks," he commented.

IN BRIEF

LLANDOUGH Community Council fête will be held this Saturday (June 8) on the King George playing fields.

There will be a raffle, bottle stall, games, plants, a bar, a cake stall, classic bikes and much more.

Community AGM

THE annual general meeting of the St Nicholas (Barry) Community Association will be held at 53 St Nicholas Road, Barry on Friday, June 14 at 6.30pm. All interested persons welcome.

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Out and About with The GEM

Food Bank donation box

THE Vale Council is helping the Vale Food Bank to collect items for people in food poverty by placing a donation box in the reception area of the civic offices in Barry.

Council Leader Coun Neil Moore said: "I hope that this will be successful, albeit regrettably that we have to have such a scheme in this day and age. This is yet another sign of the recession and the impact of the Westminster Government's welfare reforms."

Donations are accepted at the Civic offices during normal opening hours. They must be within the 'best before' date, including tins, dried packet food, other non-perishable foods and long-life milk.

The Vale Food Bank also has a donation facility at the Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road, Colcot, Barry, open on Mondays 2pm-3pm and Thursdays 4.30pm-6pm.

It is also at Bethesda Chapel in Dinas Powys, which is open on Wednesdays 1.30pm-2.30pm.

For more information, contact the Vale Foodbank on 07879 562077, email valefoodbank@gmail.com or visit <http://vale.foodbank.org.uk/>.

Lib-Dem surgery

E L U N E D PARROTT, regional Lib-Dem AM for South Wales Central, will be holding two advice surgeries on Friday (June 7).

She will be in the cafe area of Asda Pentwyn Superstore, Pontprenhau, between 10am and 11am; and at Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, CF63 4BA between 1pm and 2pm.

Residents can raise any issues of concern. No appointment is necessary.

Dinas art group show

DINAS Powys Art Group will hold its annual exhibition at the Lee Hall, Dinas Powys, on June 8 and 9, from 10am to 4pm.

There will be original artwork by the members of the group, much of which will be for sale. Entry is 50p, which includes a cup of tea/coffee or juice.

The event is supporting the Kidney Wales Foundation, with a percentage of the sales, refreshments and raffle going to the charity.

Fibromyalgia Support

THE next meeting

of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, June 11, (11am-1pm). Call 01446-733315 for details.

Public debate on end-of-life care in NHS

A PUBLIC debate will take place at Barry Memorial Hall on June 13 at 7pm on end of life care, assisted dying and the NHS.

The Vale 50+ Strategy Forum is providing an opportunity to inform and debate the ethical, legal and medical issues. Key speakers will make opening presentations, followed by questions and debate.

Speakers include Professor P Badham, professor emeritus of theology and religion, University of Wales and patron of Dignity In Dying; Professor P Fennell, professor of medical law and human rights, Cardiff University; Baroness Ilora Finlay of Llandaff, professor of palliative medicine, Cardiff University School of Medicine and consultant at Velindre Cancer Centre; and Dr R Hain, consultant in paediatric palliative care, Cardiff & Vale UHB, visiting professor at Glamorgan University.

The debate will be chaired by Wendy Bourton OBE, chair of the national partnership forum older people's ministerial advisory group to the Welsh Government. Admission

is free. For further information email: janewel.don60@mypostoffice.co.uk.

Awareness event

'DURING 2012 an estimated 39,000 older people suffered from abuse in their own homes in Wales.' (Figures taken from Age Cymru June 2012).

On June 14 from 9.30am to 1.30pm, the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum will be holding the above free event in Barry Central Library.

Information stands will include Atal y Fro (breaking the cycle of domestic abuse) housing benefit advice, Citizens Advice Bureau, Supporting People team, Care & Repair, advocacy advice from Age Concern Cardiff & Vale, and much more!

Free training TENOVS is the first charity in Wales to offer free NVQ accredited training in retail knowledge, in partnership with Cardiff and the Vale college, and is looking to recruit volunteers wanting to pursue a career in retail.

Participants will need to attend classes at Cardiff and the Vale College, located in The Parade on City Road, Cardiff. For full details contact the volunteer development team on 029 2076 8850 or email volunteer@tenovus.org.uk.

volunteer@tenovus.org.uk

Vale 50+ Strategy Forum AGM

THE Annual General Meeting of the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum is being held on Thursday, June 27, 9.30am for a 10am start.

The venue is the Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry. The keynote speaker will be Mr Dave Francis, Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner.

To book a place telephone Laura Ellis 01446 731628; email lpellis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Volunteer and help to save a life

A VOLUNTEER Week call for helpers has been made by the Welsh Hearts fundraising group in Wales.

Roles available include admin/finance, IT support, event helper, become a trustee or join a fundraising group in your area.

Sharon Owen director of Welsh Hearts, said: "Volunteering can help people stay healthy and active - walking around, as at a Welsh Heart event as well as other volunteering opportunities, can do wonders for a sense of wellbeing."

"People who take up voluntary work often feel a greater sense of purpose, and it gives them the opportunity to use some of the skills they

already have, or even learn a new skill."

Welsh Hearts mission is centred on the prevention and management of heart disease, and to fund cardiovascular medical research based in Wales.

Contact Sharon on 01633 681788 or email fundraising@welshhearts.org

Waverley is back

THE paddle steamer Waverley returns to the Vale this week to take residents from Penarth on a great day out!

Sailings began on Wednesday (June 5) with a trip to Minehead and a cruise of Porlock Bay. With sailings to Weston-super-Mare, Ilfracombe in glorious Devon, and the National Trust Island of Lundy, there is a destination or a cruise to suit every taste and pocket.

Andy O'Brian, Waverley's captain, said: "We are looking forward to welcoming our regular passengers on board and hope to see some new faces this year."

"We are delighted to be able to continue offering sailings in the Bristol Channel aboard a historic passenger ship."

Call 0845 130 4647 or find out more online at www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk

Headway social group

ON June 6, Chapter Arts Centre in Canton will host Headway Cardiff's new weekly social group for survivors of acquired brain injury, which is open to survivors across the area who do not access the Headway day centre.

For further information, see the website www.headwaycardiff.org or phone Nia Morgan on 029 2057 7707.

Flowers in June

ON Tuesday June 11, members of the Barry Floral Society will be entertained by Mrs Sharon Dower of Swansea with a demonstration entitled 'Glorious Gower'.

On June 25, 'Teatime' is the theme of the club's summer event, with an exhibition by members, a demonstration by Alison Bentley of Wenvoe, and afternoon tea.

Both meetings are at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, at 2.15pm. New members are welcome.

ValePLUS open day

THE ValePLUS charity, which provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, is holding an open day on Friday, June 14, at the centre in High Street, Barry, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Between 1pm and 2pm there will be taster sessions and a

number of stalls. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Vale Council cabinet in Peterston

THE Vale Council will be holding a 'community cabinet' meeting in Peterston-super-Ely on Monday, June 17, in the community hall.

It will be followed by a question and answer session, which will allow residents to question the cabinet face-to-face.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 777.

● £2,000: 642550.
● The rollover, which now stands at £1,000 was not won this week.

● £10: 453562, 188747, 738367, 945434, 409216, 995928, 187166, 233402, 545651, 505470, 118289, 893354, 421873, 819861, 591872, 464414, 895255, 525554, 867403, 624020.

● £5: 862901, 952691, 243848, 591525, 821272, 759288, 434179, 109722, 747034, 454698.

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Introducing Cobra, (a quality premium lager), they have also installed a new popular pool table.

Join the regulars for a Monday 'Happy Hour' special and free pool night. Regular entertainment will also feature anything from bands, solo artists, to the old pub favourite karaoke.

They look forward to seeing you soon...



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June 21st 8pm - AUBREY

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Barry Zumbathon for heart charity

A ZUMBATHON Cymru's 'Mending Broken Hearts' appeal on Saturday, June 8, at 11am. Registration and warm ups begin at 10am outside the Dolphin Bar.

THE event is part of the Vale of Glamorgan Heart Borough activities. Heart Towns is a new initiative that brings communities together through local fundraising and volunteering, as well as raising awareness of heart disease, and offering residents a raft of support services, including initiatives for schools, workplace health and lifestyle information resources.

Catherine Campbell, BHF Cymru's local fundraising and volunteering manager, said: "We hope as many people as possible will come and support us. This is a fun event for the family, as well as a good fitness workout."

Entry fee is £3 (free entry for children). Sponsorship forms are available. Contact Catherine Campbell on 07825 674466 or campbellc@bhf.org.uk.

Celebrate Father's Day Lunch

(Sunday 16th June)

AT BRYNHILL GOLF CLUB, PORT ROAD, BARRY.

Bookings now being taken for Sunday Lunch.

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The South Wales Programme



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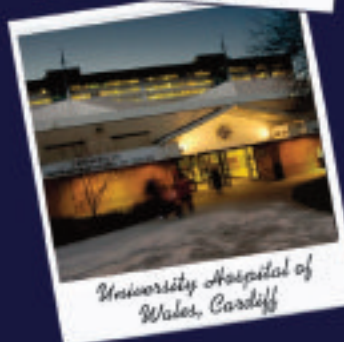


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Cardiff & Vale University Health Board Area Meetings:

June 12	7.00pm-9.00pm	Llantorian Hall, Llantwit Major, CF61 1TF
June 18	7.00pm-9.00pm	Church Hall, St Brides Major, CF32 0SD
June 19	7.00pm-9.00pm	Pendoylan Church in Wales School, Cowbridge, CF71 7UJ
June 24	7.00pm-9.00pm	Cowbridge Town Hall, CF71 7AD
June 25	7.00pm-9.00pm	Llanedeyrn Day Centre, Llanedeyrn, CF23 9PL
June 27	7.00pm-9.00pm	Rhoose Community Centre, Rhoose, CF62 3EZ
July 1	7.00pm-9.00pm	Cardiff Council Offices, County Hall, CF10 4UW
July 2	7.00pm-9.00pm	Parish Hall, Dinas Powys, CF64 4AL
July 4	7.00pm-9.00pm	Penttyrch Rugby Club, CF15 9QJ
July 8	7.00pm-9.00pm	Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Barry, CF63 4RU

For information on further Consultation Meetings please go to www.wales.nhs.uk/SWP

Rhaglen De Cymru



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University Health Board

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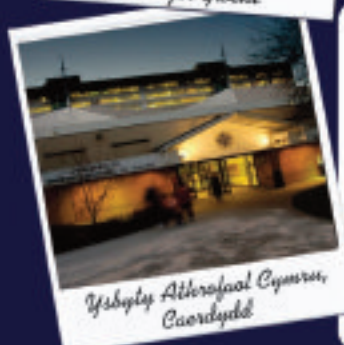


*Ysbyty
Treforyn, Abertawe*



*Ysbyty Tŷnewydd Stryd,
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12 Mehefin	7.00pm-9.00pm	Neuadd Llantorian, Llanilltud Fawr, CF61 1TF
18 Mehefin	7.00pm-9.00pm	Neuadd yr Eglwys, Saint-y-brid, CF32 0SD
19 Mehefin	7.00pm-9.00pm	Ysgol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Pendefwyn, Y Bont-faen, CF71 7UJ
24 Mehefin	7.00pm-9.00pm	Neuadd y Dref Y Bont-faen, CF71 7AD
25 Mehefin	7.00pm-9.00pm	Canolfan Ddydd Llanedeyrn, Llanedeyrn, CF23 9PL
27 Mehefin	7.00pm-9.00pm	Canolfan Gymunedol y Rhws, Y Rhws, CF62 3EZ
1 Gorffennaf	7.00pm-9.00pm	Swyddfeydd Cyngor Caerdydd, Neuadd y Sir, CF10 4UW
2 Gorffennaf	7.00pm-9.00pm	Neuadd y Phwyll, Dinas Powys, CF64 4AL
4 Gorffennaf	7.00pm-9.00pm	Clwb Rygbi Penttyrch, CF15 9QJ
8 Gorffennaf	7.00pm-9.00pm	Swyddfeydd Cyngor Dinesig Bro Morgannwg, Y Barri, CF63 4RU

Am ragor o wybodaeth am gyfarfodydd yr ymgynghoriad, ewch i www.wales.nhs.uk/SWP/hafan

All the fun of the (vintage) fair in Rest Bay, Porthcawl!



The Tools for Self Reliance stall.



Words and pictures by FRANK SHIPTON (Tel 07790 882925).



ABOVE: An interior of a wartime jeep.



Among the classic vehicles were World War Two jeeps.

THE Porthcawl Lions, in conjunction with the Glamorgan Classic Car Club, held a vintage fair in the grounds of the Rest at Rest Bay on June 1.

To the delight of the crowd, many classic cars and military vehicles were on show as well as motor cycles from the British and Irish motorcycle club from the Royal British Legion.

Liberty Street Jazz Band provided the entertainment, along with performances by Porthcawl Tang Soo Do Karate club.

Fairground attractions were in evidence, as well as Crazy golf. Our canine friends were not ignored, as dog agility was demonstrated by Porthcawl Animal Welfare (PAWS).

Many local societies and charities supported the event with stalls that included

Porthcawl Lions, Royal British Legion, Porthcawl and Pyle Photographic Society. Porthcawl Museum was showcasing its application for Lottery funding to expand and improve the many relics that it is unable to show at the present time.

Volunteers who collect unwanted tools that are refurbished and sent to Third World countries to enable the people there to become self-reliant, manned an impressive stall with 'Tools for Self Reliance'.



ABOVE and BELOW: Porthcawl Tang Soo Do put on a demonstration.



Heroic rescue of woman in swollen river is honoured

RNLI Lifeboat men from Porthcawl, Paul Eastment and Christopher Missen, were recently awarded the first ever RNLI bronze medal for bravery – following the daring flood rescue in Barnstable, Devon, that hit the headlines last December.

It took place in the early hours of the morning in total darkness, on the flooded River Umlerleigh, near Barnstable, Devon, following reports of a woman washed off the roof of a car, and hanging onto a branch in a fast flowing river.

When they arrived at the scene, they were met with a fast flowing swollen river which had broken its banks, and begun flooding adjacent fields and roadways.

As team leader, Paul made the decision to launch immediately from the roadway, through a gate leading to the river where the woman was hanging on for her life.

He recalled: "It was very dark in the area with no street lights. I could hear the lady screaming from the river, and I made the decision to launch, as I knew my crew were capable of saving her due to the specialist flood rescue training they have received."

Helmman Chris Missen said: "This was the most difficult rescue I have ever had to perform. In a swollen, fast flowing river in flood, it is difficult to steer and control the boat the way you want, as the power of the water wants to take you straight downstream."

"I had to control the



Christopher Missen



Paul Eastment

boat by steering it backwards down the river until I reached the lady, then steer sideways into the trees to rescue her.

"When we pulled her into the boat, she was very cold, and we took her quickly to the river bank. I believe that if we had not rescued her when we did, she would have soon got hyperthermia and lose her grip on the branch, as she had been in the river for around 50 minutes".

Phillip Missen MBE, local operations manager of Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat Station, said: "We are all very proud of Paul and Christopher."

"Not only do they give up their time volunteering to be part of the RNLI Lifeboat crew saving people at sea, but they are also on call 24/7 as part of the RNLI Flood Rescue Team."

"The rescue they carried out was very much out of the norm, and was definitely the most heroic deed I have heard of, well above the call of duty".

Austen finalists aiming for title

THE hunt for a Jane Austen Mastermind in the county borough is almost over, as Bridgend library and information service's *Pride and Prejudice* competition nears its climax.

The Mastermind competition, which marks 200 years of the author's classic novel, has given book lovers the opportunity to flex their literary knowledge in branch finals held in libraries across the county borough.

With *Pride and Prejudice* prodigies going head-to-head at Maesteg Library's concluding branch final today (June 6) the stage is almost set for the grand final taking place at 3pm – 5pm in Brynagarw House and Country Park on Sunday (June 9).

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "Our libraries consistently put on a range of novel events, and this *Pride and Prejudice* Mastermind competition is no exception."

"Discovering the county borough's passion for *Pride and Prejudice* has been an exciting way of celebrating its anniversary. I'd like to wish all contestants the best of luck in Sunday's final."

The final forms part of a regency-inspired event at Brynagarw House and Country Park. The finalists' supporters and fiction fanatics alike can savour a traditional high tea, indulge in period music performed by Opus 8, and enjoy performances, readings and costumes inspired by the era.

for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734, or email oc.372@air-cadets.org for more information.

COITY RESIDENTS GET TOGETHER FOR LUNCH



ON Sunday June 2, residents from neighbouring communities Coity and Parc Derwen in Bridgend came together to celebrate the fifth annual Big Lunch.

Funded by the Big Lottery Fund and led by the Eden Project, it encourages people to have lunch with their neighbours once a year, for a few hours of community, friendship and fun.

The Coity Big Lunch was organised by members of Coity Primary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) who felt that it was important to foster a sense of community between Coity residents and people living in the recent Parc Derwen development, since the school will soon be moving to Parc Derwen.

PTA member Cheryl Haffey said: "We've always held street parties for big events like the Diamond Jubilee and the royal wedding, but this year the PTA felt that it was more important than ever to get the two communities together in preparation for the school's upcoming relocation."

"The whole village was closed off for the day and the children were able to run and play in the streets together, or head up to the castle for activities and face painting."

"They had a fantastic time and it was nice to see them have the run of the village, while we adults took part in a pub quiz."



Keith Richards and his son Joshua Richards at the Big Lunch event outside the Six Bells pub on West Plas Road in Coity.

"It was amazing to see so many people enjoying themselves at our Big Lunch and, most importantly, enjoying the company of people they might never have talked to before. I would encourage everyone to get involved next year – we've had such a great time, not only today, but also planning the event."

"It's fantastic to think that so many people across the UK were sitting down together at Big Lunches. We will certainly remember our Big Lunch here for years to come."

Walk raises £2,500 for charity

ON Sunday, May 26, the Healing the Wounds team and volunteers pulled out all the stops for its second annual sponsored charity walk in Porthcawl. Dozens of generous and willing people turned up at the Rest Hotel where the walk began and, armed with banners, a megaphone and bags of enthusiasm, the walk began in earnest.

After registration and a few health and safety tips, all the walkers started their sunny coastal walk to the Hi Tide and returned with just as much gusto as when they left!

BUCKET COLLECTION

Sainsbury's supermarket in Bridgend has supported the charity over the last year by allowing bucket collections and book sales and also by promoting the charity at every opportunity.

Healing the Wounds founder and ex Serviceman Kevin Richards commented: "We are all overwhelmed by the support that has come from our local Sainsbury's store."

"All the staff have been extremely helpful during our fundraising events and special thanks must go to customer services colleague, Jackie Thomas, who also gave her own personal time to help out."

"Thanks also to Virgin Active for providing goody bags for the walkers."

"AMAZING CUPCAKES"

The charity provided amazing calorific cupcakes for sale, which were beautifully made and generously donated by Christine Hopkins from Bridgend, and helped to boost the fundraising total.

Help was given by lots of thankful veterans and their families, who have received support from the charity for varying problems and a fabulous day was had by everyone.

Sincere thanks to all who gave their time to help raise in excess of £2,500 for this worthwhile cause!

Anyone wishing to contact the charity can call 01656 786380 or 07714 622328.

CAROL RICHARDS



Teenager Joe spends his gap year in a Lebanese orphanage

BEIRUT may not seem the obvious choice for a gap year but for four young people – including one Bridgend teenager – it's been home for the past six months, and the subject of a current tour.

Joe Barnes is part of an action team coordinated by Christian charity BMS, that has spent half a year working in an orphanage in the Lebanese capital.

Now the team has started a two-month tour of different parts of the UK and is in Bridgend this week, where they will be sharing their experiences with others.

In addition to Joe, the team consists of Alex Lui, Laura McHale and Hannah Pickering.

During their time in the Lebanon, the team has worked with primary school age boys, helping them with English and other school work and organising sports and leisure activities.

Preparation for the year included cultural awareness training, financial management and learning Arabic – a language which they continued to learn throughout their time there.

Over recent years, Beirut has largely recovered from its troubled times of the late 1980s and early 1990s when life in the city was scarred by violence, and it has regained its place as a centre

for tourism and culture.

So it was no doubt a concern for the team when within a day of arriving in the city – a car bomb killed a high-ranking Lebanese security official.

Thankfully, this did not escalate into further violence and the team was able to remain in their place on the outskirts of the city.

By the time the tour finishes in July, the whole experience will have cost each member of the team over £4,000 each, and was made possible by the support of their local churches, as well as family and friends.

For Joe, that meant a significant contribution from fellow members of Hope Baptist Church, Bridgend, where Joe's father is the minister.

As Joe points out: "It's been an incredible experience and we've learned a lot, not just about the Lebanese people but what it's like to live in a different culture."

"It's given me a new perspective on what really matters and it's great to have the opportunity to share that with others."

Every year BMS sends action teams to various parts of the world and this year in addition to the Lebanon team, the organisation sent teams to India, Italy, Nepal, Peru and Uganda.

DP

National Survey sounds positive note on Welsh health and education

LAST week, the results of the National Survey for Wales were published, with some encouraging news about how people in Wales feel about our public services.

The survey reveals that people are very positive about the Welsh NHS and the quality of Welsh schools, but remain concerned about their ability to make ends meet financially.

The National Survey collects robust and detailed information on the views and experiences of people across Wales on a wide range of issues, involving face-to-face interviews with around 14,500 people each year. The overall rating for health was 6.4, education 6.4 and transport 6.0. (A rating of 10 is 'extremely good' and 0 'extremely bad').

GUEST COLUMN

People were also asked to rate their satisfaction with the Welsh Government, and the average rating was 5.8, compared to an average score of 4.3 for the UK Government and an average of 3.8 for governments across Europe.

At a more detailed level, 96 per cent of people who saw a GP or had a hospital appointment agreed that they were treated with dignity and respect; 92 per cent were satisfied with the care they received from their GP at their last visit; and 90 per cent were satisfied with the care they received at their last hospital appointment.

If you look at findings for education, 92 per cent of parents were satisfied with the primary school their child attended, and 83 per cent were satisfied with their child's secondary

school.

Internet use was also interesting, with 73 per cent of households saying they had access to the internet – equating to approximately 79 per cent of people aged 18 or over having access to the internet at home.

In my response to the survey findings, I said that the Welsh Government would use these results to inform the development of our policies and the delivery of our public services.

This survey was published a week before the annual debate on the delivery of our programme of government, which was led by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM in a Welsh Government debate in the Senedd on Tuesday.

It is clear that the National Survey for Wales provides an opportunity for people to give their opinions on

Assembly Note



by Vale AM JANE HUTT (Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

the issues that affect their lives.

We are committed to taking into account the views of people we serve and respond to all complaints and difficulties with care, respect and diligent attention.

The full results can be found on the Welsh Government website <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/latest/?lang=en>.

Tories' five-point 'blueprint' for Cardiff Airport

A 'BLUEPRINT for Cardiff Airport' which sets out a "vision for growth in passenger numbers, routes and value for money", has been launched by Andrew RT Davies, leader of the Welsh Conservative group in the Assembly.

The event was co-hosted by Byron Davies AM, the group's shadow transport minister.

Mr Davies also set out plans to reimburse taxpayers for the £52 million spent by the Welsh Government to purchase Cardiff Airport.

He said the "bold vision" would more than double the value of the airport and lead to its return to private ownership, with profits being split between investment in infrastructure and returning the spend to Welsh taxpayers.

"Cardiff Airport should be seen as Wales' gateway to the world, but unfortunately, it is suffering from neglect and a lack of leadership and vision."

Conceding that the Conservatives had opposed the Welsh Labour-led Government's decision to buy the airport, "now that the money has been spent, it is vital that we work hard to make it a success and return it to private ownership as soon as possible."

"We believe that the Welsh Government could have supported

Cardiff Airport earlier, and with a far more modest investment; by offering support to airlines seeking to establish new routes.

"We have an ambitious plan to increase the airport's value by attracting new airlines and routes, improving public transport links and using air passenger duty as a lever to make rates at Cardiff Airport more competitive."

The blueprint seeks to: establish a new 'Airlines' Director; to attract new carriers; devolve air passenger duty to Wales, to lower rates to improve competitiveness; improve the Welsh marketing campaign to showcase Wales to emerging markets; improve public transport links to Cardiff Airport and plan for longer-term investment in road infrastructure; and enhance freight transfers through Cardiff Airport by offering competitive rates to local, regional and international businesses.

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Kyle & Kirsty

CONGRATULATIONS on your wedding
June 7th 2013

Wishing you health and happiness for the future.
All our love, Mum, Dad and all the family
x x x x

Family Notices

HANSEN
Phyllis (née Burdge)

The family of the late Phyllis wish to extend their thanks to the staff at Springbank Nursing Home, Barry for their care and support over the last five years.

Special thanks from daughter Janet to husband Phillip Beaven for his unwavering hands on help and care for Phyllis throughout this time.

Also thanks to Dr D O'Connell of Highlight Park Surgery Barry for kind support in these last weeks.

Funeral Service on Friday, 7th June 2013 at 11.30am at James Pigeons Funeral Home. Family flowers or donations to Cancer Research Wales c/o James Pigeon & Sons Funeral Directors, 539 Cowbridge Road East, Canton Cardiff.

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Birthdays

STEVE AUSTIN

Happy 60th Birthday on 7th June

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x x x x

Family Notices

BISS
William Edwin (Eddie)

Mary wishes to thank all family members particularly Jayne and Ivor for their invaluable help and support together with the many friends, neighbours and Eddie's former B.R. workmates for their attendance at his funeral on 28th May 2013 and for their generous donations to Cancer Research Wales, Velindre Hospital. The number of cards, letters and messages of condolence received have been a great comfort at this sad time.

Thanks also to Mr Anthony Thomas of A.G. Adams and Son, Barry for his professional and courteous assistance, to the Reverend Irfon James for his comforting words at the service in the Chapel and the crematorium. Finally, thanks to Rhiannon at Stephenson's for the beautifully colourful family floral tribute and to the management and staff at the Tynewydd Inn, Barry for the excellent catering.

WATKINS

Eileen Rebecca

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of Eileen, adored wife of Basil for 58 years and greatly beloved by Greg, Tim, Sue and Hannah. She died peacefully in the presence of her family on the evening of Friday, 31st May.

Funeral arrangements: Tuesday, 11th June, 11.15am, cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Wenvoe; followed at 12.30pm by a celebration of Eileen's life at the Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

No flowers please. If desired, donations may be made to The British Heart Foundation via the Funeral Director, W H Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun.

LYONS

Margaret Elizabeth

Suddenly on 22nd May 2013 at her home in Rhose, Beth. Beloved wife of the late John and dearly loved mother of Sian and Steven.

She was a loving grandmother and great grandmother and will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Funeral service on Monday 10th June in Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium at 10.30am.

Family flowers only, but donations may be made to British Heart Foundation c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please).
Enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son 01446 792489

INGLE

Richard (Pat)

Sue and Steve would like to thank everyone who came to see Dad set off on his final journey.

We would especially like to say thank you to all the staff of Milsom House for the love and care they gave to all of us and also to Alan and the team at A.G. Adams and Son Funeral Directors for making the day a smooth ride.

PALMER

Hubert Phillip (Hughie)
1923 - 2013

After a very long illness, Hughie passed away on May 31. Loved father of Michaela, father-in-law of John, grandfather of Natalie and Rebecca, great-grandfather of Danny, Brandon and Joel, devoted twin brother to George (founders of Barry Zoo, Weycock Road).

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonon. Funeral Friday June 14, service 11.15am at Porthkerry Church followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12.45pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to WWF c/o J James, 11 Ffnonon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

THOMAS

Rhodri

Tragically on May 24 Rhodri of Sealands Farm, St Brides Major, dearly loved son of Andrew and Helen, loving brother of Elwyn, Morgan and Evan, much loved grandson of Gerald and the late Glenys, and Isobel and the late Clive, will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonon. Funeral Monday June 10, service 2pm at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major followed by private interment. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Wick Rugby Club c/o J James, 11 Ffnonon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Public Notices

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/00408/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Conversion of existing barn building within the curtilage of a listed building to residential use; provision of new access driveway; and removal of one modern barn.
Location/Lleoliad:	Ty Fry Farm, Llandow, Cowbridge
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth:	Llandow

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/00440/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Change of use from shop to Cafe / Bar
Location/Lleoliad:	Steamers, 4, Windsor Arcade, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth:	Penarth

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/00404/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Proposed replacement of main entrance gates, proposed installation of new rear courtyard gates and restorative work to existing greenhouse
Location/Lleoliad:	Gileston Manor, Gileston, Barry
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig:	Grade II*

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/00419/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Replacement of windows and re-rendering the external walls with smooth acrylic render
Location/Lleoliad:	2, Pwll y Myn Crescent, Peterston Super Ely
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig:	Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/00423/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Internal reordering
Location/Lleoliad:	Pwllwyrach, Colwinston
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig:	Grade II

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: June 6, 2013

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry, CF63 4RT

McMAHON

Patrick

An amazing man.
Passed away peacefully on 29th May 2013, aged 91 years.

Loving husband to Frances for 65 years, inspiring father to Christopher, Susan and Bonny, father-in-law to Martyn and Anthony.

Wonderful grandpa to Matthew, Alex and Tom.

Resting at the private funeral home of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until the service on Thursday 13th June, service at St Helens R.C Church, Barry at 12.30pm afterwards at Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park, Barry.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Royal Navy Benevolent Trust, Castaway House, 311 Twyford Avenue, Portsmouth PO2 8RN

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service.

HOPKINS

Glyndwr

Peacefully on May 31 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Glyn of St Athan, beloved husband of Dilys.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonon. Funeral Thursday June 13, service 2pm at St Athan Church, followed by interment in St Athan Cemetery. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to BHF c/o J James, 11 Ffnonon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

BREWER

Alfred Walker

Peacefully on May 25th at Llys Gwyn Residential Home, Maudlam, Alfred, formerly of Turkey Street, Llantwit Major. Beloved son of the late Margaret and Randall, loving brother of the late David.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonon. Funeral Tuesday, June 11th, service 2pm at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major followed by interment in Llantwit Major Cemetery.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Prostate Cancer UK c/o J James, 11 Ffnonon Road, Rhose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

New base for local photographic group



AFTER 12 years at the Rest, Pyle & Porthcawl Photographic Society held their first meeting on Thursday, May 30, at their new home, the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, next to the harbour at The Square, Porthcawl CF36 3BW.

A group photo of the available members was taken to commemorate the event. All meetings until the end of the season on June 27, along with next season's meetings from September 12, will be held at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel.

Coity Primary School: NEW HOME MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER

COITY Primary's brand new school building has moved a step closer following cabinet approval for plans to appoint a contractor.

Part of the council's ongoing school modernisation programme, the new premises will be located at the 1,500-home Parc Derwen housing development in Coity where the school will treble in size to cater for more than 400 pupils plus nursery provision.

Set to open in September 2015, the new school building will offer excellent facilities which will be made available to the wider community outside of school hours.

The construction of the new school

will be funded through the council, the Welsh Government's 21st century schools programme and section 106 contributions from developers at Parc Derwen.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Through our school modernisation programme, we are committed towards providing children in Bridgend county borough with first-class learning environments so we can give them the very best start in life."

"I'm really pleased that the plans for providing a new school building for Coity Primary are progressing so well and I look forward to the day when the children see the new premises for the first time."

RNLI men save yacht

AT 7.55 pm on Saturday June 1, Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat, *Rose of the Shires*, was launched to assist a 37 foot long yacht that had fishing nets caught on its rudder and hull, and was unable to manoeuvre.

Volunteer Helmsman Simon Emms reported: "We arrived on scene within 15 minutes of launching, and found that although the yacht had dropped its anchor, it was slowly drifting towards Scarweather Sands, a large sand bank off Sker Point."

"When we were alongside, I put one of my crew aboard the yacht, to assist in getting their sails down and try to free the rope from under the boat."

"This was unsuccessful, so we requested that Mumbles' larger RNLI Tyne Class Lifeboat was launched to tow the yacht to Swansea."

Porthcawl Lifeboat stood by with the stricken yacht until Mumbles Lifeboat arrived, and then made their way back to Porthcawl, and arrived back at station at 11.40pm.

FUN QUIZ RAISES CASH FOR THE SCHOOL OUTING



ABOVE: Hayley hands over her cheque.

ON Sunday (June 2) GEM contributor Hayley Williams presented a cheque for £300 to her husband Andrew for Ysgol Bryn Castell School in Bridgend, to enable him and a colleague to take six children on holiday to Tenby in July.

The money has been raised through a Sunday evening quiz at The Swan in Nottage, Porthcawl, over the last few months.

Hayley hosted the fun quiz to raise money for various local charities. The money has been raised by donations of 10p for an incorrect answer.

Hayley thanked all who took part in the quiz and also the volunteers (her

husband Andrew, Kay and David Boswell, Marion and Clive Jones) who collected and counted the money and dealt out raffle tickets for correct answers over the weeks.

She has also thanked Eddie Edwards for providing fresh lettuces from his allotment, Murph for setting up his equipment, and all of the regulars and visitors at the Swan for their generous donations.

The quiz will continue at the Swan Inn starting at 5.30pm every Sunday for a new charity The Sandville.

All are welcome to take part in the fun quiz with no written pages.

"You can turn up at any time and join in the fun," says Hayley.

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11/11	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.7 DESIGN ECO FLEX (125) 7 SEATS 5DR	ONLY £10,390
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12/12	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC ECOBOOST (125) START/STOP PS & APP PK 5DR	FROM £12,235
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Huskies get powerful support



ABOVE:

Barry Huskies receive the donation from Jason Allen and Ian Tait of Aberthaw Power Station. Also pictured, club secretary Alun Rees.

ABERTHAW Power Station has made a donation to Barry Huskie – to help them cover the cost of basketball court fees.

The Barry Basketball Club has been running since 1964 and currently has 67 members, ranging from under-12s to adult teams. Both boys and girls train and compete in the South Wales league.

"Since the Vale leisure centres have become privatised, playing court fees have gone up so the donation will help to cover the cost of training and matches," said Alun

Rees, secretary and club member since 1964. We are very pleased to support a thriving club and make sure it can offer this opportunity to such a wide range of youngsters," said Ian Tait, Aberthaw Power Station engineering manager who made the formal presentation.

The club has a double link with the power station as Jason Allen, EC&I team leader at the site, is dad to Ryan and Carys, who both play for the Huskies.

Anyone is welcome and can drop in for training on Sunday morning at Holm View Leisure Centre or call Alun on 02920 531531.

RHOOSE FC'S END OF SEASON PARTY

SUNDAY, June 23 sees Rhoose Football Club host their end of season party and presentation night for the junior and mini sides.

The event being held in the main function hall at Fontygary holiday park has been kindly sponsored by the Park itself and Lafarge Cement, as both companies help the community around them.

The season again has seen the club grow as the village itself grows and currently over 120 children registered and a year-2 team already in place and training for the new coming season.

The season has plans in place for the

forthcoming season including summer beach training, summer barbecue and other social events to make the club the heart of the village.

The event will have a disco and an interval for the coaches to give out trophies to the Rhoose players. We hope to see a great turn out as families turn out to support their players on congratulating them on a long successful season.

The presentation night will run from 4pm-7pm upstairs in the main hall at Fontygary Holiday Park; for more details about the club please visit our website, www.rhoosefc.co.uk. PH

Golf skipper Sue hands over £7,830 donation to Velindre

AFTER a year of fundraising activities and events, the lady captain of Glamorganshire Golf Club, Sue Gibson, was "proud" to make a magnificent donation of £7,830.02 to Velindre Cancer Centre.

Sue was inspired by a Velindre fashion show she attended in the Vale Resort last year and was determined to go on and raise money for Velindre during her year as lady captain.

She organised a gala



Sue Gibson (left) presenting the cheque to Jan Morgan of the Velindre Cancer Centre.

attended the event on behalf of Velindre, and said how generous the members of the golf club had been in supporting Sue Gibson's term of lady captain and helping to make the event such a huge success.

Andrew Morris, Head of Fundraising at Velindre, said: "This is a wonderful donation, and speaks volumes for the hard and commitment of Sue and her fellow members at the

Glamorganshire Golf Club.

"It's remarkable to be able to raise so much in these difficult economic times and we are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to this exceptional donation.

"The money raised will be used to help ensure the best possible support is offered to every patient, their family and carers dealing with cancer at Velindre."

Calling all club officials - we welcome your news and sports reports. Email them to: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

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AUDI A3 RESPONDS TO EVERY DRIVER'S WHIM

DRIVING experience – words that every motorist knows about, no matter what vehicle they drive.

For some it will be a wholesome, positive experience, while for others, totally unsatisfactory. The latter not necessarily being the car's fault either, I might add – rather the driver's sheer incompetence behind the wheel.

But enough of the driving instructor's tales and my Sunday afternoon experiences.

In this day and age when so much is clinical and characterless, you could be forgiven for

thinking that driving has become little more than another chore that just needs completing rather than being enjoyed and savoured.

So often the whole experience can be a pretty monotonous affair, especially with the amount of vehicles on the roads.

It is, therefore, refreshing to sit inside the Audi A3 TFSi S line, which responds to almost every driver's whim. There are five different modes ranging from economy to dynamic. Understandably, the latter is by far the most enjoyable.

After all, it is the driving experience that

lies at the heart of this splendid machine. Equipped with no less than a seven speed S tronic automatic gearbox, the driver can use it either as a traditional automatic or if they are feeling that they want more control, the stick can be pushed to the left and pushed up or down to go through the gears manually (as you can see in the video at test-drives.biz).

If that is still not satisfactory then the paddle shifts either side of the uniquely designed steering wheel will deliver an experience akin to driving a racing car. When selecting dynamic mode and using the manual option, the A3 is noticeably

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS



much more responsive, agile and nimble although there is still a slight delay when the accelerator is kicked. Push it to the floor and it seems to go on and on forever.

A very gutsy and

exhilarating experience. It's interesting to note that the paddle shifts can be used in conjunction with the manual option, if required.

Speed and agility are all very well but traditionally, such vehicles guzzled fuel like no

tomorrow. I am, therefore, positively astounded that not only will this hot hatch travel from 0 to 60mph in just seven seconds, but it will also return a staggering 50mpg (there's a really reliable engine stop/start function, too).

You really can put your foot down without worrying about the fuel gauge plummeting. To put this into perspective, it is more efficient than my own diesel Ford Fiesta, which certainly does not provide the driving experience or performance.

The sporty feel throughout the A3 S line is helped by the golf ball-topped gearstick and the sports leather covered steering wheel. The driving position is critical and, pleasingly, I have no complaints; my arms comfortably resting outstretched at the ten to two position on the steering wheel. You would be surprised how often this ideal position is not attained due to an incorrect seat height that can't be adjusted to perfection and/or a steering wheel that cannot be adjusted for the optimum position.

With a dashboard that leans towards minimalism, it is certainly a refreshing take on what can so often be an overpowering, cluttered experience. The few switches present relate to such things as heated

front seats and the air conditioning. It does take a while to adjust to the position of the volume control for the stereo; to the right of the gearstick.

The owners of a hot hatch like this are likely to be affluent 20 to 30 year olds. Therefore my baby seat and pushchair test is wholly unfair, but a necessity with my family. This three-door model will begrudgingly accept two baby seats in the rear – the front seats barely fold far enough forward to allow for the seats to be easily fitted in the back. The boot is large enough for a pushchair.

Overall, it takes much to beat this compact hatch, which is easy to park and supremely quick. It is one of my favourites.

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Watch the video: www.testdrives.biz.

VALE MP HANDS OVER STORE'S KIT DONATION



Oak Field pupils celebrate their new sporting equipment with Vale MP Alun Cairns

NEW footballs and equipment have been handed over to Oak Field Primary School pupils in Barry.

The Vale MP, Alun Cairns, had received the donation from McDonald's Director of Football, Sir Geoff Hurst, and the FA's Director of Football Development, Sir Trevor Brooking in the House of Commons recently.

Geoff Hurst explained: "Over the past decade, I've seen

grassroots football take on a whole new guise and take a huge leap forward in terms of progress and quality.

"Kit and equipment is just one of many of the small ways that we can continue to support football at this level, and I hope Oak Field pupils enjoy using this fantastic new football gear."

Alun Cairns commented: "I was delighted to join in with some football training with the pupils at Oak Field Primary."

Sapphires' gem of a victory...

THE Sapphires beat the Diamonds in the Vale adult boccea league final at Hengoeg Resource Centre on the 10th anniversary of the league.

With 35 players made up of eight teams from Boccia Rollers, Cardiff and Vale College and Hengoeg Resource Centre, the Sapphires were helped by two Special Olympics Wales players in their team, Heather Williams and Suzy George. There was also a strong performance by Lucy George to help them to victory.

The Hengoeg Rolling Stones beat Hengoeg Fire Balls in a sudden death play-off for third place as the match ended even after normal play.

All teams put in good displays, especially the Cardiff and Vale College teams, taking part for the first time.

Vale Council Disability Sport Wales officer Simon Jones said: "It was great to see so many players taking part in the 10-year anniversary of the league. The standard

was as high as ever and a great effort was put in by all players. I'd like to thank Linda Ruston and Val Savory for their help with the running of the league and helping it be a success."

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GEM sport

Tour de Force for rampant Lions

NO sooner had the final whistle sounded on the 2012-13 season, than rugby thoughts turned to summer tours, with Wales heading for the land of the rising sun, but overshadowed by the more high-profile British & Irish Lions' expedition to Oz, which finally kicked off yesterday (Wednesday) against Western Force in Perth.

While an unfamiliar Welsh team – the equivalent of New Zealand's 'baby Blacks' – were packing their bags for Japan, the bulk of the senior players were forming the broad spine of their seconded head coach Warren Gatland's Lions squad bound for Australia.

In fact, no fewer than 11 of them featured in Saturday's curtain-raiser in a sweltering Hong Kong stadium against a

Barbarians' invitational side that a week earlier had been thrashed by England at Twickenham.

While it may not have been a true test of Lions' credentials, it did offer an opportunity for the heavy Welsh contingent to lay down an early tour marker – an opportunity they grasped with alacrity.

The team ran in eight, well-worked tries (seven of them by Welshmen) in an emphatic declaration of intent that would have put the waiting Wallabies on red alert.

After the 59-8 demolition of the Baabaas (who, sadly, on this occasion were more like Baa-lams to the slaughter) the real opener came against Western Force, which in line with Gatland's pre-tour vow to give every member of the

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

party a chance to impress, saw a completely-changed Lions' side, with only four Welshmen in the starting line-up – Leigh Halfpenny, George North, Alun-Wyn Jones and Ian Evans.

The team:
Leigh Halfpenny, Tommy Bowe, Brian O'Driscoll (captain), Manu Tuilagi, George North, Jonny Sexton; Conor Murray; Cian Healy, Rory Best, Dan Cole, Alun-Wyn Jones, Ian Evans, Tom Croft, Sean O'Brien, Jamie Heaslip.

Replacements: Tom Youngs, Mako Vunipola, Matt Stevens, Geoff Parling, Toby Faletau, Ben Youngs, Owen Farrell, Sean Maitland.

They faced what was said to

be the weakest regional opposition the Lions were likely to meet Down Under.

As such, the game was expected to further ease the tourists' path into an exacting nine-match tour which will culminate in the three crunch Tests against the Wallabies.

And so indeed it proved – even if the Force did not exactly measure up to its name, given a controversially-depleted starting line-up that made nonsense of its place on a Lions' itinerary.

The selection paid the inevitable price as the tourists roared into a 27-3 halftime lead, eventually running in nine tries and two penalties, all of which were converted successfully by the ever-reliable Leigh Halfpenny, who again notched up a 100 per cent

match kicking tally.

The final score, 69-17, represented something of a humiliation in that sports-mad country, whatever excuses may be put forward for the defeat, and it will surely give the Wallaby selectors much to ponder on.

Following on this display, and the Hong Kong performance, while there can be no place for complacency, Warren Gatland is in the more enviable head-scratching position of having an embarrassment of riches to choose from.

Clues to his thinking will come with the starting line-up against Queensland Reds at the Suncorp Stadium on Saturday, which should prove to be a much sterner test for a Lions' squad slowly gaining in confidence.

END OF AN ERA FOR ATHLETIC UNDER-16s

RIGHT: Jack Hogan, Matthew Bennett, Craig Lewis, Shane Howells and Tom McArdle

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC under-16s held their last mini and junior presentation at the OCLP club on Friday, May 24, to mark the end of an era.

During the evening, emotions were high as players and parents were able to look back over memories from years gone by, from the under-7s through to the under-15s seasons, thanks mainly to team manager

Angela Bennett who had put together a compilation DVD of games and photographs of the players and parents, many of whom have been involved at the club since 2003.

Over the ten years, the team has achieved fantastic things, thanks to the volunteers who have helped steer the children in the right direction, and to the players, who have worked so hard to meet their goals along the rugby player pathway –



while having a huge amount of fun at the same time.

Five players were presented with Bridgend Athletic caps for their commitment and dedication playing at every age group – Jack Hogan, Matthew Bennett, Craig Lewis, Shane Howells and Tom McArdle.

The 21-man squad finished with a great set of results; played 18, won 13, drawn two, lost two and one no result due to serious injury.

Player development has always been key over the years and this season was no exception, with 13 players selected to represent the Bridgend County team: Jack Hogan, Sam Jervis, Tom McArdle, Craig Lewis, Harrison Evans, Ethan Candlish-Nott, Tomos Pritchard, Matthew Bennett, Ashton Chalmers, Curtis Daniel, Ben Jones, Toby-Michael Galliers and Gareth Evans-Rees.

Two other players represented the Ospreys under-16s squad, with Chris Long captaining the regional side and Sam Matthews impressing all year at tight head.

Five boys were selected to represent the Boys Club of Wales under-16s – Sam Jervis captained the squad alongside

Toby-Michael Galliers, Ben Jones, Jack Hogan and Matthew Bennett, and Ben Jones also represented Wales under-16s in rugby league.

Moving forward, the development continues with Chris Long already named in the Ospreys under-18s squad for 2013-2014 and Sam Matthews, Ben Jones, Matthew Bennett, Craig Lewis, Tom McArdle, Gareth Evans Rees and Ashton Chalmers all named in the Ospreys under-18s development squad for the coming season.

The presentation evening continued with individual awards, which were handed out by former Llanelli Scarlets and Wales prop forward, Martyn Madden.

The most improved player award went to Connor Browne and the most promising player was Cory Gardner. The clubman (Daryl Dyke Spirit of Rugby) award went to team captain for the past four seasons, Tom Pritchard, and the best back award to Ben Jones.

The under-16s player of the year was awarded to second row Matthew Bennett, who topped off an outstanding season with some notable energetic performances

throughout, not only for the Ath, but also for the Bridgend County when he captained the side to a great win before Christmas, and the Boys Club of Wales, gaining two man-of-the-match awards against West Midlands and Yorkshire counties.

Thanks went to team sponsors Darlow Lloyd & Sons Ltd, Argies Coffee, Ian Lewis Building & Gardening Services and Cutting Edge Cleaning Ltd for their outstanding support throughout the seasons.

Finally, presentations were made by the players to show their thanks to the coaches, Ian Lewis, Phil McArdle and Tony Bennett, and team manager Angela Bennett, for their hard work and commitment throughout the last ten years.

Thanks also went to Tom Evans for helping out this season.

Tony Bennett confirmed that he would be heading up the Athletic youth set-up for 2013-2014 season.

Details regarding the coaching team and pre-season training will be on Bridgend Athletic website in the next few weeks, bridgendathleticrfc.com.

Successful season for Pencoed under-16s

PENCOED under-16s had their last ever junior presentation on Saturday, June 1.

They've been the most successful Pencoed team in the club's history after winning last year's Osprey Cup final and getting into the final again this year, only to be narrowly beaten by Ystradgynlais.

The following trophies were given out: most improved player went to Scott Ewing, chosen by the coaches; clubman trophy went to Josh Maunder because of his versatility throughout the last four years.

Sportsman of the year went to Lloyd Webb for his ability to play wherever the coaches needed him to; coaches' player of the year went to Cole Lewis for his improved fitness this season.

Players' player, chosen by the boys, was Daniel Maiden; supporters' player of the year, chosen by the parents, went to Daniel Maiden also, and last, but not least, the captain's trophy was awarded to Lloyd Webb.

The Pencoed team have been very busy this year. Three boys represented the Ospreys at under-16 level; congrat-

ulations to Morgan Jones, Jack Briggs and Lloyd Webb. Morgan Jones has also been chosen to represent the Ospreys at under-18s level.

We also had five boys who represented The Boys Club of Wales – Morgan Jefferies, Alex King, Cole Lewis, Chris Cooper and Owain Clarke.

The team also boasts a pair of Welsh boxing champions in their respective classes, Jonny and Jason Clatworthy.

One of the boys also represented The Boys Club of Wales football team recently – well done to Matthew Ellis.

The Pencoed team also produced Welsh rugby league players. Alex King, Morgan Jefferies and Daniel Maiden all got in to the Welsh side and will resume training shortly to prepare for their second test match against

England in August.

Five Pencoed players received caps for playing for Pencoed from under-7s right through to under-16s. They are Alex King, Chris Cooper, Lewis Brennan, Owain Clarke and Liam Bowen.

The parents would all like to thank the coaches – head coach Paul Cooper and assistant coaches Dai Clarke and Lyn Brennan, first aider Nigel Cooper, and not forgetting water boy Neil Maiden.

Also, a big thank you goes to Jeremy Maunder, who bought every player a trophy for the second year in a row for reaching the Osprey Cup final.

Thanks to the parents – without them, we wouldn't have had such a great and talented bunch of boys and, last, thanks to all the boys and good luck in the future.

KM/JM

Bridgend bridge club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, May 29: first Andrew Scott and Liam Sheridan, second Norma and David Newman, third Edward Bertram and Glyn Williams.

Friday, May 31: first Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, second John Evans and Ann Fox, third Diane Jones and Pat Coghill.

In addition to the regular club nights on

Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm until 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

For further information contact one of Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) John Evans (01656 880372) or David Newman (01656 649138).

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